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LIVERPOOL FC



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Editor David Cottrell **Assistant Editor** William Hughes **Writers** John Hynes, Simon Hughes **Art Editor** Neil Haines **Designer** Lisa-Marie Critchley **Contributors** Ged Rea, Dave Ball **Photography** Press Association, Getty Images, John Powell, Andrew Powell Imagery, Nicholas Taylor © Liverpool Football Club & Athletic Grounds Ltd. **Published by** ProgrammeMaster Ltd **Managing Director** Lee Berry **Circulation Manager** Paul Smith **Subscriptions** Shivanni Sohal **Head of Advertising** Rob Williams 020 7121 5033 **Advertising Sales Executive** Sonia Randev 020 7121 5005 www.programmemaster.com Tel 020 7121 5000 Fax 020 7121 5001 Email LFCMag@programmemaster.com. To subscribe call 08700 20 20 20 or visit www.programmemaster.com **Printed by** William Gibbons



EYES DOWN

Lucas, Alberto Moreno, Dejan Lovren and Steven Gerrard are fully focussed in the build-up to the UEFA Champions League clash with Real Madrid at Anfield. The visit of the reigning champions on Matchday 3 brought the big Euro nights back to L4. Carlo Ancelotti's men lived up to their billing, registering a 3-0 win thanks to a Karim Benzema double and a first Anfield goal from Cristiano Ronaldo.


RESPECT
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
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8



WHOLE LOTTA LOV

Dejan Lovren sends a near full house at Anfield into raptures with his late winner against Swansea City in the Capital One Cup fourth round. "It was a great feeling to score at the end," he told liverpoolfc.com as the Reds pursue a record ninth success in the competition. "It was a relief because we deserved a win. When I saw the statistics, they had five shots on goal and we had 20, so we completely deserved it. And it was definitely a big result for the players."



YOU ONLY WIN TWICE!

Natasha Dowie and her Liverpool Ladies team-mates celebrate after making a successful defence of their FA Women's Super League trophy. It all came down to the final afternoon but after a series of twists and turns, the Reds' 3-0 win over Bristol Academy was enough to keep hold of the silverware. Turn to page 68 to read American midfielder Amanda Da Costa's thoughts on the triumph.



ONE LALLANA TWO LALLANA THREE LALLANA FOUR

Liverpool was the perfect choice after a vital learning curve with Southampton, the gifted midfielder tells Simon Hughes

Adam Lallana throws a football high into the air, controls it with his right foot before switching to his left so quickly it is surprising that a vapour trail is not left behind. He kicks against a wall rapidly as if he cannot bear the thought of leather and man being apart. The skill is seamless. Is he two-footed?

On a mild late autumn afternoon at Melwood, he sits on a red-coloured bench at the edge of the training ground's bootroom immediately before indoor space becomes outdoors. Joe Allen, Philippe Coutinho and Raheem Sterling slip through the glass entrance from the pitch bringing with them the scent of hard work.

"I'm right-footed," Lallana confirms, pointing towards the boot with which he kicks most. "But," he pauses. "I use my left a lot too. I'm confident enough to dribble, pass and shoot with either."

Lallana developed the ability through "good old hard work and concentration," aided by Southampton's Under-18s coach Georges Prost who arrived from Olympique Marseille in 2002 to oversee a revolution inside the club that few on the outside knew was happening. Charged with instilling the technical qualities he believed English footballers lacked, Prost blamed the shortcoming on coaching standards compared to France where aspiring Arsene Wengers needed qualifications in order to work.

"There's nothing like that here and, perhaps because of that, training for young players tends to be rather basic," Prost said soon after his appointment. "All the players do is a lot of running, then they play 11 against 11. At Southampton, I've brought over some of what exists in France."

During five years, Prost guided the Saints U18s to four divisional triumphs, a national play-off title and to the semi-finals and final of the FA Youth Cup, and helped progress numerous teenagers whose sales would later help Southampton survive during a period of financial difficulty.

"Most of Georges's sessions were technical drills," Lallana remembers. "At 16 I wasn't great with my left foot. But Georges showed me the way. It was repetition every day: controlling with my left, passing with my left, dribbling with my left and tackling with my left. If you can tackle with the foot that you naturally don't kick with, it gives you a lot more confidence. It has got to the stage now where I don't think about what foot I should use when the ball comes to me. It almost is a natural instinct, I suppose."

Lallana believes being two-footed helps him in the tightest corners and has improved the speed of his play.

"It's got to the stage now where I don't think about which foot to use"

In Southampton's academy there were other players faster than him and this was his way to catch up. It enables him to take possession from the left and switch it to the right or the other way around in one movement. "If you can go inside or outside, left or right, you're a lot more difficult to stop," he says.

Lallana joined Liverpool with eight seasons of experience as a professional behind him. He seems well-prepared for a club where the quest for success is 'like a river that goes on and on' according to Bill Shankly, 'with lots of twists and turns'.

"The journey to this point has taught me that life is about highs and lows and dealing with them," Lallana continues. "I've experienced a few lows in my career and although they hurt at the time, without realising they've probably made me a more rounded person. You learn how to deal with different circumstances.



At Southampton a lot happened: relegations, promotions; missing out on promotions, uncertainty around the club, being given the captaincy – an important responsibility."

Playing two seasons in League One gave Lallana an acute perspective. Other players in the Saints dressing-room were at the end of their careers and, as Lallana puts it, "wondering how they'll pay the mortgage in future.

"I was only young and naive and probably didn't fully appreciate the situations people can be in. You look back and realise the effect that three points had on the club. It means that people are happy: the players, the coaches, the team behind the team – everyone who worked at the training ground from the dinner ladies to the groundsmen. You can't take anything for granted. As much as I enjoyed playing there and as much as I learnt, it was a long way from the Premier League. Everyone who helped Southampton back to where it wants to be deserves a lot of credit because it wasn't easy."

Lallana grew with the club and the higher the team went, the more influential he became. "When I was at Southampton and playing in League One, I knew I should have been playing in League One. That was my standard. I didn't warrant playing in the Premier League at that age. I gradually progressed. We achieved back-to-back promotions. My talent and experience developed at the same speed as the club."

He balanced patience and personal ambition. "There were boys who I

"Players like Bale and Walcott had the x-factor but I was patient"

played with at the youth academy in Southampton who developed a lot quicker than me physically. We're talking about [Gareth] Bale, [Alex] Oxlade-Chamberlain and [Theo] Walcott. They had the x-factor. It was a combination of pace, power and being really talented. I never had any other clubs making offers for me. I was patient. In the long-run I've ended up where I wanted to be."

Lallana had overcome health issues in his early teenage years, being diagnosed with both colitis and an irregular heartbeat. It made him more determined to become a top player. "When you get to the situation where football becomes a bit more serious and some people don't like it, I tried to enjoy it. I took it seriously but always remembered why I wanted to become a footballer in the first place. You get to a stage where it becomes a job and you grow up and have a family, which is where I'm at the moment. I still love the game, though. Despite the knocks and disappointments, you have to keep the love."

A succession of first-team managers had profound impacts. The first was Alan Pardew, who in 2010 delivered the Football League Trophy with a 4-1 victory over Carlisle United at Wembley. It was Southampton's first cup success since 1976 and Lallana scored the team's second goal following Rickie Lambert's opener.

"Under Pardew it was the first time I realised the responsibilities of being a professional footballer both on and off the pitch. There are sacrifices you need to make to become successful. I was 20, 21, but he made me appreciate I wasn't a kid in football terms. Pardew had the same influence on Rickie."

Nigel Adkins kicked the club on up the leagues. "This was a time where we enjoyed a lot of success – winning lots of games, scoring lots of goals, playing attacking football and winning a few promotions. It was a great spell and Nigel was at the forefront of it. He got everything ticking."

It was a surprise when Adkins was fired and replaced by Mauricio Pochettino, the former Argentina international defender who would later move to Tottenham Hotspur. "When Pochettino first came in it was difficult because I was injured. But as soon as I was back fit and got over that period of probably trying to impress him too much, we had a great relationship and still do now. It was a brilliant 18 months. He was very demanding. He changed the whole philosophy of the club and the lads thrived off it. He was a big reason why so many other top clubs wanted to sign Southampton's players last summer."

Lallana was one of them. At Southampton he became friends with Neil Mellor, the former Liverpool



On loan at Bournmoeuth back in 2007

Saints teenager

Maturing with Southampton

striker. Mellor had been a team-mate of Richard Chaplow, a midfielder who was at Preston North End before moving to St Mary's.

"Neil was desperate for me to come up here," Lallana says. "Liverpool's his team and he watches a lot of football. He thought I'd fit right in here with the way Brendan wants to play. When the deal was sorted, he was very helpful, advising me where to live. Neil's a great lad and I'm made-up he's doing well for himself with a media career after retiring."

Despite interest from elsewhere, Liverpool was Lallana's no1 choice. "The way Liverpool play their football, especially since Brendan [Rodgers] has been here, was the biggest attraction. On top of that there's the history, the fanbase and the expectation. For them to be interested was a dream come true even though I was an Everton fan as a kid. I know there are plenty of players who have done well for Liverpool that supported Everton. It drifted away as I got older and become more involved at Southampton and started supporting them. But now it's Liverpool."

Within a few days of the US tour he twisted his knee ligaments, delaying the start to his LFC career. "I always knew it was going to be difficult settling in, especially with the injury. I wasn't going to be 100 per cent when I first came back because I'd missed a lot of training and games. That, on top of playing for a new club the size of Liverpool, wanting to impress, and having Champions League football. You need to be tough mentally.

In action for the Reds


England regular



Thirsty work at Melwood

"The more that we train, the more we learn each other's games"

"I was so desperate to do well, maybe trying a bit too hard to impress, not doing things that I'd normally do – thinking about things maybe a bit too much. That coincided with a bit of a sticky spell for the team as well. I kept saying to myself: just give yourself a little bit more time – don't be so critical. You can't always expect to be at your best straightaway. When you've been away for seven or eight weeks, the pitch feels a bit different when you step back on it for the first time.

"It's a case of getting your head down, working hard and doing the things that have made you successful before to get back to a level where you can affect matches. Gradually, the more games I've played and the more minutes I've accumulated there's been no coincidence that my form has improved and I've got closer to the levels I was at last season for Southampton. There's still an improvement to be made but I'm getting there."

The prospect of developing an understanding with Philippe Coutinho and Raheem Sterling excites him."I can only see the relationship on the field going in one direction. You know, the more we train we learn each other's games: where you like to play the ball, where you receive it. It's a privilege to be on the same pitch with them because there's some unbelievable talent there."

Lallana's unusual surname comes from a grandfather on his dad's side born in Madrid. He references Inigo Idiakez and Santi Cazorla as two players he respects but for different reasons. "Both are Spanish," he smiles. "Inigo came to Southampton when I was just starting out as a player and taught me a lot about tactical discipline." Arsenal midfielder Cazorla taught him one of the harshest lessons as a Premier League player. "At Southampton we went to the Emirates a few weeks into the season after promotion. Arsenal did us 6-1 and Cazorla was unstoppable. He manipulates the ball beautifully."

Lallana believes technical standards are improving among English footballers. "It's definitely going in the right direction. There are a lot of young players in the England team and the Under 21s are doing very well too. I wouldn't say we've had a shortage in the past, but the way the game's going, you've got to be good on the ball."

Having made his international debut 12 months ago he enjoys the pressure that comes with playing for England. "There's always going to be huge expectation on the national team. Regardless of the opposition, we're always expected to do well. You can understand it because England is an important football nation. But we're not the only nation that wants to do well – there are a lot of good teams out there.

"There are no roll-overs now. The gap between the elite and not-so-good has shortened. Every game is difficult because opponents are well-organised. That's where you've got to be patient and your big players have to step up. Everyone has to pass it quickly and be confident in tight areas when it isn't possible to use pace, power and the space in front."

With that, Lallana returns to the training pitch, the ball at his feet.


L.F.C.
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A to Z of Anfield

PART 2

Straight into the second part of our encyclopaedic series about the hallowed home of Liverpool FC



is for **GATES** – at opposite ends of Anfield are two grand entrances that mark the achievements of two of Liverpool FC's greatest managers. On Walton Breck Road stands the Bob Paisley Gateway, opened 15 years ago outside the Spion Kop, while Anfield Road is home to the Shankly Gates, unveiled by his widow Nessie in 1982 with the legend YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE across the 20ft long overthrow as well as a heraldic symbol showing the club crest of a Liver Bird, the Cross of St Andrew and a Thistle to denote Bill's Scottish origins.

In a past issue of the magazine we tracked down one of the men who made them in the space of 10 short weeks – Somerset blacksmith and Reds fan, Ken Hall. "Our design was one of ten which had been originally submitted and Mrs Shankly picked ours – she said there was nothing to touch it," he recalls. "My colleague Chris Brooks worked on the overthrow and I forged the gates themselves. We were shattered at the end but always confident about completing them on time. Enthusiasm got us through – it was definitely a labour of love."



And for **GRASS** – or as Bill Shankly called it, the "great grass at Anfield – professional grass!" Which along with a ball was all you needed, according to Shanks, for a great day for football.

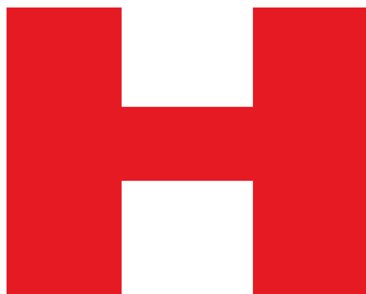
And for **GERRARD** – specifically the current Liverpool skipper's earliest recollections of Anfield. Steven first went as a six-year-old spectator in November 1986, for a League Cup fourth-round replay against Coventry City in which Jan Molby scored a hat-trick of penalties – all to the goalkeeper's left – in a 3-1 win for the Reds. "The main thing I can remember is the excitement when I heard the turnstiles click," says Gerrard. "I can remember the floodlights dazzling my eyes because it was a night game, and the green colour of the pitch. Then there was the smell of Bovril – everyone seemed to be drinking it in the ground at half-time!"



And for **GROUNDSMEN** – Arthur Riley, not to be confused with the namesake South African goalkeeper who became one of the club's first overseas players, was Anfield's groundsman for 54 seasons between 1928 and 1983. His father Bert began the family tradition in 1908, with Arthur joining him on the staff straight from school. He witnessed many changes such as the installation of floodlights and undersoil heating as well as upgrades to the stands. Arthur's primary concern though was the pitch – so successfully that officials from Wembley Stadium regularly asked him for advice.

Wembley officials regularly asked Arthur for advice





is for **HILLSBOROUGH MEMORIAL** – a place of pilgrimage for fans of every football club. Former Reds midfielder Jamie Redknapp, who played in last season's Celebration of the 96 match at Anfield, told the club's matchday programme: "I stayed in digs for about three years and the Eternal Flame was right by me. Along with attending the memorial service every year, every day I'd walk into the ground and see the flame and just have a little look. You only then realise the magnitude of it." Design proposals for the redevelopment of the Main Stand include a cloister which will become the new home for the memorial.



And for **HOME** dressing-room – the inner sanctum where legendary managers and their teams have prepared to do battle in the red kit. Not much has changed here, deep inside the Main Stand, since the days of Shanks when players would change every day before getting the bus to Melwood. Just think of the names who have been in this room: Liddell, Hunt, St John, Keegan, Dalglish, Rush, Barnes, Fowler, Gerrard, Suarez...the list goes on. Recently former Reds defender Alvaro Arbeloa, now with Real Madrid, said this to *The Guardian* newspaper ahead of his return to L4 in the Champions League: "You get changed at Anfield and you have one little hook for your shirt, your trousers, your jacket, everything. There's no space, especially in winter when you're wearing a big coat. It's very small. You're squashed in but that's the tradition and the values the club transmits. There's no luxury and maybe that helps maintain the connection between players and supporters. It has its charm. Then you leave the dressing-room and see *This is Anfield*. That sign is the incarnation of a spirit."



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is for **INTERNATIONALS** – Anfield has hosted several over the years, among them four games during Euro 96: Italy v Russia; Czech Republic v Italy; Russia v Czech Republic; and France v Holland, a quarter-final tie.

Five years later Sven-Goran Eriksson's first competitive match as England manager was staged at Anfield – a World Cup qualifier against Finland. The visitors went ahead before Reds striker Michael Owen equalised then Manchester United's David Beckham scored the winner. The *Daily Telegraph* reported: 'The England captain was not used to being cheered to the rafters in this place. Indeed, he publicly feared that his reception would be quite the opposite… But Anfield has a reputation for recognising class footballers'.

The most recent international to be hosted here was England's 2–1 friendly victory over Uruguay in March 2006, with then-Reds striker Peter Crouch on the scoresheet.

Beckham scored for England and Anfield cheered to the rafters



And for **INTERNAZIONALE** – opponents in the European Cup semi-final second leg of 4 May 1965, when the atmosphere is said never to have been bettered. The visit of the reigning world club champions was eagerly anticipated and queues snaked their way around the ground from midday. The red half of Merseyside was already in a state of euphoria following the club's first FA Cup triumph three days earlier and the tone was set when Shanks sent out injured stars Gerry Byrne and Gordon Milne with the trophy. By half-time Liverpool were 2-1 ahead through goals from Hunt and Callaghan. Mazzola's away goal would ultimately prove crucial but it failed to dampen the party atmosphere. Inter's fate could have been worse had a Lawler goal not been disallowed but St John increased the margin of victory late in the second half.





J

is for **JOURNEY** – to Anfield on the City Explorer Bus tour. Liverpool FC's new open-top service provides a direct return route from the city-centre to the stadium, with lots of spectacular views and fascinating insight into LFC's rich history along the way. At Anfield passengers can alight for the opportunity to go on an award-winning stadium tour. It offers exclusive access – from the dressing-rooms and players tunnel with its mythical *This Is Anfield* sign to the pitchside dugouts, Spion Kop itself, media room and interactive museum opened by Brendan Rodgers in 2013 – with tour guides taking guests behind the scenes and former players telling fabulous tales from the club's illustrious past.

To find out more please visit www.liverpoolfc.com/tours.



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JUSTICE FOR THE 96



is for **KOP** – the biggest single-tier stand in England, seating 12,500 spectators. But do you know how many rows of seats it's got?

The original brick-and-cinder structure was constructed in 1906 as a reward for the fans after the club's second league title triumph. It was soon christened Spion Kop after the site of a Boer War battle in southern Africa in 1900 involving many soldiers from local Liverpool regiments. By the time a roof was added in 1928, it was 425ft long, 131ft wide, 80ft high and held 28,000 supporters.

Another new roof appeared in 1966 when the terrace had developed a reputation as a place of not just passion and pilgrimage but wit and wisdom. The song *You'll Never Walk Alone* by Liverpool pop band Gerry and the Pacemakers had been adopted as a Kop anthem, hits by the Beatles were regularly belted out, the team's kit had changed to all-red, and heroes like manager Bill Shankly and players Ron Yeats, Roger Hunt and Ian St John were worshipped.

"The Spion Kop at Liverpool is an institution," declared Shanks. "And if you're a member of the Kop you feel as if you're a member of a big society, where you've got thousands of friends all round about you. And they're united and loyal."

The 1970s and 80s saw devotion reach new heights with not just songs and scarves but banners and flags. In 1994, in the wake of the Hillsborough tragedy and the Taylor Report on safety at football matches, the old standing terrace was demolished following the final league match of the season, against Norwich City on 30 April that year.

Those lucky enough to be present at the second leg of the 2005 UEFA Champions League semi-final with Chelsea will vouch for an Anfield atmosphere as good as any which had preceded it down the years, perhaps the Internazionale game among them. But arguably the most consistent characteristic of the Spion Kop has been its sporting nature – and particularly its ritual appreciation for opposition goalkeepers since at least the 1960s.

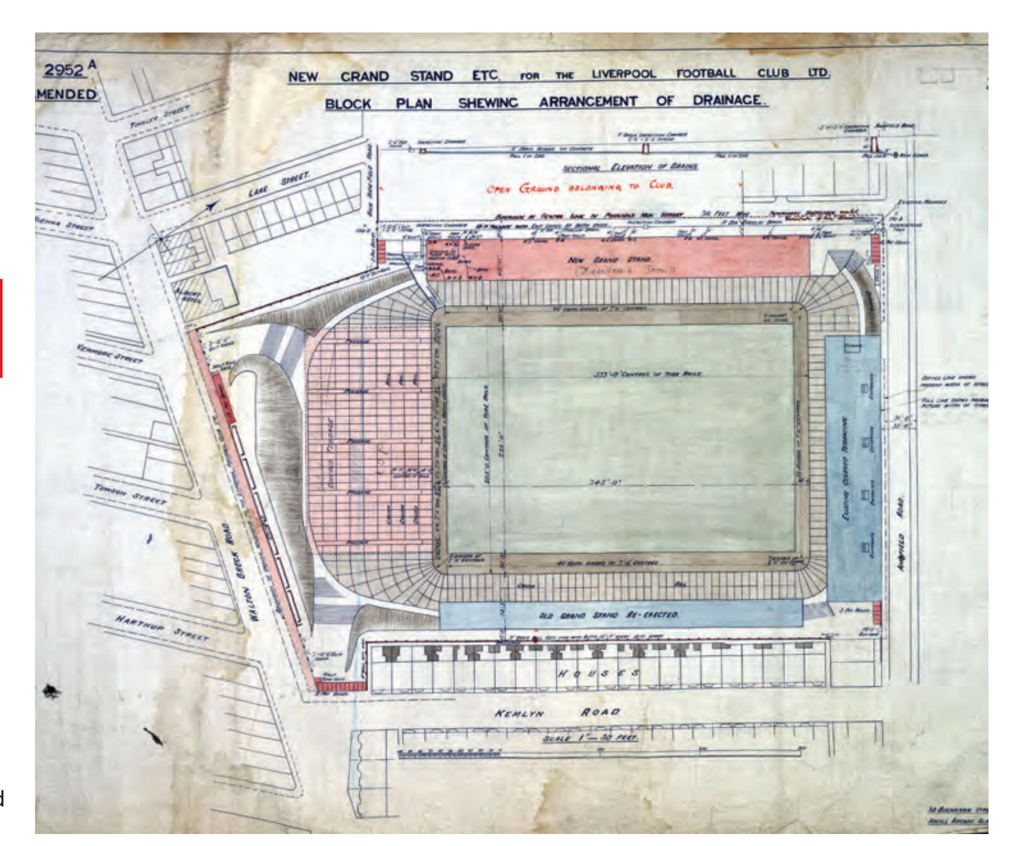
The number of rows of the current Kop, by the way? Seventy-six.



L

is for **LEITCH** – first name Archibald, the Scottish architect who devised Anfield's original Main Stand in 1895 with seats for 3,000 spectators and a distinctive red-and-white gable (the stand was eventually demolished and replaced in 1973) then the Oakfield Road Embankment, soon to be re-named Spion Kop by Ernest Edwards, sports editor of the *Liverpool Post & Echo*.

Leitch, the first major figure in British football stadium design, also created Ibrox, Highbury and Goodison Park, among others. Typically his stands had two tiers with criss-crossed steelwork.



And for **LEGENDS** – who contested the Celebration of the 96 match at Anfield last Easter. Kenny Dalglish's team of local superstars drew 2-2 with their international counterparts under the guidance of Gerard Houllier. The occasion marked the 25th anniversary of Hillsborough.


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Why do the players enjoy a spot of head tennis at Melwood every now and again? Assistant boss Colin Pascoe explains: "After training and tactical work it's just to ease off and have some fun – but they all want to win!"



Oh I say! A cushion header from Borini is admired by the boss and his no2



No one's going to return this forehead smash from defender Dejan



And he's done it! Midfielder Emre Can wins in straight sets



So it's a bit like tennis, and volleyball too, only you just use your head and feet…

Whoever said strikers and defenders get competitive even when it's fun?

Is any one going to head it better than Rickie? No wonder they all want to be on his side

Foot fault! Raheem and Mario want a let but Joe's thinking unforced error







LIVERPOOL F.C.
Back row, L to R: Milne, Byrne, Lawrence, Yeats, Lawler, Stevenson
Front row, L to R: Callaghan, Hunt, St. John, Smith, Thompson

50 YEARS OF ALL RED

Late November marks 50 years since a spot of Shanks psychology produced a lasting fashion statement, writes William Hughes

September 1964. Following an emphatic 11-1 aggregate victory over Icelandic side KR Reykjavik in Liverpool FC's first European assignment, there was a buzz of anticipation around Anfield after the draw was made for the first round proper of the competition.

In his autobiography Bill Shankly revealed: "It was the first of the big European games and you could feel the heat in the air. Anderlecht was filled with Belgian international players and I had seen the Belgian team give England an exhibition at Wembley. It was 2-2, but the score was a farce. Belgium had murdered England. When I came out of the ground I said to Joe Mercer: 'How do we beat these?' Of course, when I got back to Liverpool I said I didn't rate the Belgians!"

As Shanks pondered how to defeat Anderlecht, he saw red. Literally. All red!

Ahead of the fixture he revealed that the team would have a new-look for the game against the men from Brussels. Seeking the help of the tall, imposing figure of Ron Yeats, he tried out a little experiment.

Ian St John recalled in his own autobiography: "He [Shankly] came into the dressing-room one day and threw a pair of red shorts to Ronnie Yeats. 'Get into those shorts and let's see how you look', he said. [After Yeats reappeared with them on, Shanks said] 'Christ, Ronnie, you look awesome, terrifying. You look 7ft tall!'

"Shankly thought the colour scheme would carry psychological impact – red for danger, red for power."

The Saint himself suggested they go the whole hog and add red socks to complete the look. Were Anderlecht suitably intimidated? The scoreline would suggest so. The new look appeared inspirational as Liverpool claimed a huge scalp in winning 3-0 in front of a 44,516 crowd with Roger Hunt joining St John and Yeats on the scoresheet.

Other factors may have been involved too. In his weekly column in the *Liverpool Echo*, Yeats revealed that Shanks had been chewing the ear of his brother Bob about the Belgians. Bob had been manager of Dundee when they had thrashed Anderlecht 6-2 in the quarter-finals of the tournament two years earlier.

Liverpool's transition to all red was gradual. When Tottenham Hotspur arrived at Anfield three days after the Anderlecht game, the Reds reverted to their traditional white shorts and socks. However six months later a Liverpool team kitted out all in red claimed the FA Cup for the first time in the club's history, St John stooping to net the winner against the all-white Leeds United.

The impact of changing to all red is impossible to measure. Far more tangible is the success that has followed in the half-century since the switch, arguably making Shankly's mind-games one of the most important decisions in the club's history.

Bill later reflected: "We used to play in white shorts with red stripes, white stockings with red tops and white piping on the jerseys. The introduction of the all scarlet strip had a huge psychological effect. I went home that night and I said to Ness: 'You know something...tonight I went out onto Anfield and for the first time there was a glow like a fire was burning'."

RED: ALL ABOUT IT



16 Liverpool Daily Post, Thursday, November 26, 1964

Pride of Belgium shattered in European Cup first tilt

LIVERPOOL — RED SHIRTED CRUSADERS OF ENGLAND

Hunt, Yeats and St John score golden goals

By HORACE YATES

LIVERPOOL 3, ANDERLECHT 0

Thus are the prophets confounded! Those foretellers of gloom who attributed all manner of magical qualities to the cream of Belgium's footballers built up such an aura of invincibility that one can only assume that somewhere in transit Anderlecht lost their wands. It was Liverpool who dictated a tremendously fast and exciting struggle from the start and it was Liverpool who finished far fresher than opponents whose verve, understanding and confidence had been utterly shattered.

This first round European Cup-tie first leg at Anfield was a match for greyhounds, with the stamina of marathon runners, and Liverpool astounded everybody by the way they maintained a cracking tempo without the slightest sign of showing bellows to mend. So fast and furious had it been to the interval that when I said to Ronnie Moran: "Nobody can keep this up," the wiser and more in touch Moran said: "Our lads can keep this up ...

Centre forward Ian St. John slams home Liverpool's first goal, in the European Cup, first round first leg game against Anderlecht last night.

A boost to our morale

WE BEAT THEM ON TACTICS, SAYS SHANKLY

CONTROL OF CENTRE

IRELAND BEATEN, BUT

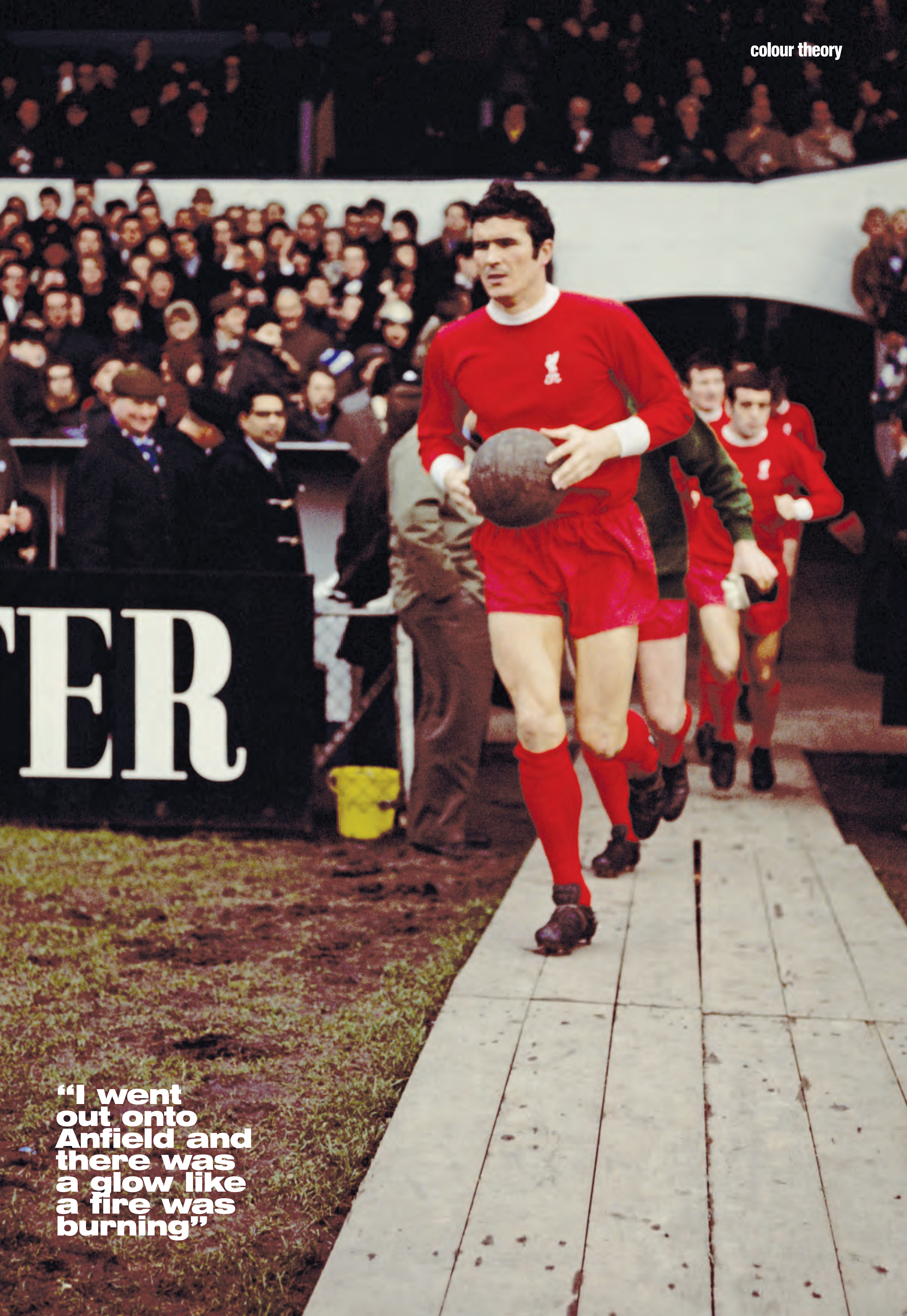
Scotland lost goal urge

SCOTLAND NAME SIDE

Graham In Under-23 team

MASTER STROKE

This image published in the *Liverpool Daily Post* the morning after the Anderlecht game is confusing. At first glance it looks as though Ian St John is wearing white shorts and socks while scoring his goal. It is however, a trick of the light. The floodlights, remember, would have been much less powerful than they are today having only been introduced at Anfield in 1957. Likewise, the photographic process would have been much inferior. Lest there be any doubt however, here is what *Liverpool Echo* journalist Leslie wrote in his 'Looking At Sport' column the following day: 'The Indian summer heat of late November caused both linesmen to remove their black jackets. In the indifferent light there was danger of them being mistaken for Anderlecht players. Trainer Bob Paisley sensed this and offered the referee a darker strip for one of them. The referee signaled to him that he, at least, could identify one white shirt from another. Liverpool, with vivid red shorts which even goalkeeper Lawrence wore, looked strange, but it wasn't long before they were imposing their will on the game and on Anderlecht'.



"I went out onto Anfield and there was a glow like a fire was burning"

GERRARD: THE KNOWLEDGE

How much do you really know about the Liverpool skipper? These 18 questions will test even the staunchest of Reds fans…

1 Steven is the highest scoring Englishman in the UEFA Champions League history (by the end of Oct 2014) with how many goals: (a) 9 (b) 19 (c) 29

2 The only Liverpool player to have appeared more times than him in the Champions League is…

3 Still on the Continent, the skipper is now the sixth oldest player to represent Liverpool in Europe behind…

4 Following his free-kick in September's Merseyside derby he's now scored how goals against Everton: (a) 8 (b) 10 (c) 12

5 Including 2014/15 how many seasons has Steven Gerrard now played in the Reds first team?

6 Way back when, he made his debut as a substitute for Vegard Heggem against which team: (a) Blackburn Rovers (b) Sheffield Wednesday (c) Bolton Wanderers

7 Which three shirt numbers has Steven worn over the course of his Liverpool career to date?

8 Which midfield rival said this about Steven in 2002: "I'm a big fan of his. I really like him as a player and I think he can be one of the best players – a truly fantastic player."



9 When he converted successful penalty no43 of his career, at Spurs in August, whose LFC spot-kick record did he surpass?

10 That penalty also meant he'd now scored in 16 consecutive seasons for Liverpool – overtaking the club record set by which legend: (a) Billy Liddell; (b) Ian Rush; (c) Robbie Fowler

11 Against whom has Steven Gerrard scored more goals than against any other club, with 13 to date?


GERRARD
8
CAPTAIN

12 Complete the following sequence: Alaves, Manchester United, AC Milan…

13 Against which country did Steven win his 114th and final international cap for England, at the 2014 World Cup finals in Brazil?

14 Which England manager originally gave him his senior international debut in the Millennium year?

15 Gerrard was voted PFA player of the year in 2006 – 18 years after which Reds player last won the prize – but who was the last LFC player to pick up the prize?

16 Which famous game finally persuaded the very young Steven to become a Red rather than a Blue?

17 Which two retired Reds came off the substitutes bench for his testimonial match against old friends Olympiacos in August 2013?

18 And an easy one to end with: which is Steven's birthday: **(a)** 30 March **(b)** 30 April **(c)** 30 May



ANSWERS: 1. Steven had scored 29 goals by end of October; 2. Jamie Carragher with 91 apps – Steven had 83 by end of Oct; 3. Gary McAllister, Ian Callaghan, Jamie Carragher, Bruce Grobbelaar and Sami Hyypia; 4. He's scored 10 against the Toffees; 5. It's his 17th season; 6. He came on against Blackburn Rovers in November 1998; 7. Shirt nos 8, 17 and 28; 8. Patrick Vieira; 9. Jan Molby's previous record of 42 pens; 10. Billy Liddell; 11. Aston Villa; 12. West Ham United – the fourth team against whom Gerrard has scored in a cup final; 13. Costa Rica; 14. Kevin Keegan – against Ukraine in May 2000; 15. John Barnes in 1988; 16. The 1986 FA Cup final; 17. Jamie Carragher and Robbie Fowler; 18. 30 May.


adidas
OPEL

Why hitting the bull's-eye can be easier for some players than others

Didi HAMANN



Darts: different target, same challenge

I heard Phil Taylor on the radio recently talking about a darts player who was nicknamed 'the Living-Room World Champion' because at home or in practice he was unbeatable. Then when it came to the real thing he just couldn't play at the same level. He found it impossible to reproduce the talent that he clearly possessed. The tension got to him.

Darts is obviously an individual sport, but the same happens in football. I encountered quite a few players during my career that looked superb in training. I'd go away wondering how come they weren't in the team or why they hadn't done well at previous clubs. On matchday I'd see why. It seemed like they couldn't handle the tension that surrounded playing in a competitive environment. You need to be calm if you want to produce your best. Some players weren't. They'd get wound-up and think about it too much. It meant when kick-off arrived they were already drained.

"You can get too wound-up to be at your best on the pitch"

I never had that problem. I treated every game the same, whether it was a league match, a Champions League final or a World Cup final. I never got too wound-up by any of it. I was able to switch off and forget about it in the build-up or even on the day of the game itself. I'd see other players attempt to do the same, even by doing something as simple as going outside to take a phone call. It all helped.

I think part of why it didn't affect me too much was just my character. Another reason was probably because I spent so many years at Bayern Munich. The club was, and is, led by winners. If you pulled their shirt on at any level you were expected to get success. Perhaps that meant I was accustomed to the pressures of football and it didn't concern me.

Other players simply weren't – they couldn't forget about it. They were the first ones down to the newsagents to buy the papers the day after a match. The only paper I ever looked at on a regular basis was the Racing Post.

The huge media interest now means that each match seems to matter more than ever. Players have to cope with that spotlight and doing so isn't easy. That's why more and more psychologists are involved in the game at senior and academy level. Personally I never felt I needed that kind of help. Everyone is different and if you think it might make you improve even one or two per cent, then you should do it.

Getting the balance right is vital. We try to improve players' pace, power, strength, passing and shooting. Making them mentally stronger would obviously be beneficial, but we can't overload them with too much.

It's also important to remember that when you are playing football the pressure to win – like you have at big clubs like Liverpool – is what you want. Whereas being near the bottom of the table is not the type of pressure anyone needs. I experienced that during my time as manager of Stockport County. The threat of relegation meant people's livelihoods at the club were on the line and that's a horrible feeling.

Follow Didi on Twitter @DietmarHamann

SECRET WORLD OF THE LFC HOARDER

From cards and stickers to scarves and rosettes...and badges and beermats and pennants and...you get the gist. Lee Gray has enough LFC nostalgia to fill a book

Lee Gray, 38, says being a Liverpool fan "is all I've ever known" – perfect credentials, along with a serious penchant for collecting football memorabilia, to produce a unique new book about all things LFC. We've got three copies to give away, but first let's find out more about Lee and his Anfield treasure trove...



A young Lee watching the Reds at Wembley in the late 1980s

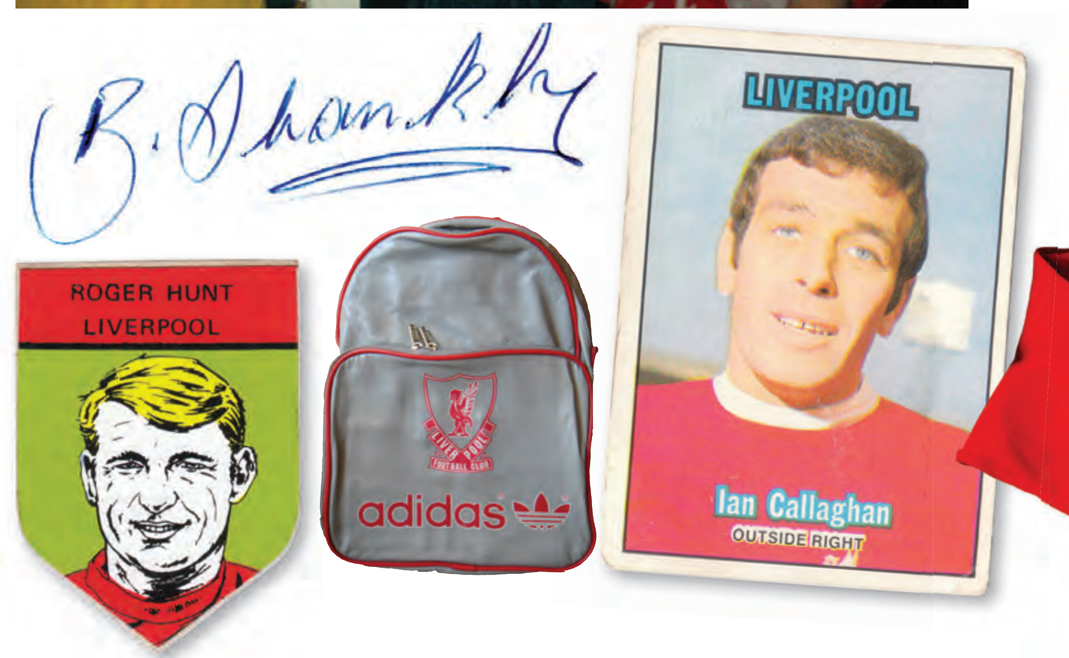
This Liverpool FC collecting obsession – how did it all start?

My first memory is being sat in front of the television watching the match and my dad telling me all about the mighty Spion Kop. I can remember being desperate for the camera to go back to the Kop end to see the sea of faces and the mass swaying behind the goal.

My first matchday experience was in November 1981 in a Milk Cup tie with Middlesborough that we won 4-1. I remember very little about the experience. To be honest, other than looking at the Kop for the first time from the Main Stand and being mesmerised by it – hearing the crowd roar, all that singing, and I do recall that Rushie scored!

My first real memory of being upset at a game was Wembley for the 1988 FA Cup final, being beaten by Wimbledon's 'Crazy Gang'. It was very hard to see the League and FA Cup double slip away, especially with the football we played that season, probably the finest I've ever seen.

My dad is originally from West Allerton and a mad Red himself, so instinctively he brought me up to be a fan with him. In the early 1980s he gave me lots of his items from the 60s and 70s – scarves, badges etc.



I started collecting items as a hobby around 1986 and I've just been collecting ever since.

Can you describe how your collection has grown over the years?
I'd probably say around 25 per cent I've had since I was younger. But from signing up to an ebay account in 2001 my collection has probably tripled in size, maybe more. Pre-eBay the only way I could add to my collection was via items direct from the club shop, or vintage stuff from friends, or rare lucky finds at carboot sales.

I'd say eBay has been the answer to a collector's prayers, to be honest, as it gives you opportunities to obtain rare items that you'd never get the chance to have. It takes years for some items to appear on eBay but if you persist in looking, something eventually pops up. One item I do regret not purchasing and let slip was a 1928 souvenir programme v Bury for the opening of the new Spion Kop stand. It was listed on eBay about 10 years ago but I've not seen one since and probably never will! It haunts me.

How many items do you now possess, and how much space do they take up?
At an estimate I'd say around 2,000 items, which my lass says takes up way too much room!



Yep, definitely the strangest item Lee!

Is it just Liverpool FC stuff or items from other clubs too?

It's purely LFC now, although years back I did collect other football-related items that I thought were quite nice and also enamel badges for all clubs. I've now parted with most of these items to raise funds for more LFC bits!

Is it a competitive world among collectors – can you give us an example of the lengths that people will go to?

I think the interest in collecting memorabilia has definitely grown in the last few years. On eBay certain items such as pennants and badges could be picked up cheaply and easily, but now the prices have increased and you have to put up more of a battle to actually win them. I rarely used to lose out but now frustratingly it's become more of a common occurrence. My lass thinks that's great though!

So how did the collaboration with the Got Not Got publishers begin?

The Got Not Got guys were in touch with my friend Jim [Donnelly] who runs the fantastic *Unofficial Liverpool Football Club Museum* Facebook page, and Jim told them to contact me as I own the *Kop Locker* Facebook page dedicated to my collection – I post items to it on a daily basis. I helped the lads out for the book.

Your favourite three items of LFC memorabilia and why?

First, a 1973 Umbro League Champions player tracksuit. This item a true honour to possess and completely pricless in my eyes. The fact that it was our first title in seven years after Shankly rebuilt the team and was also the catalyst to the start of an era of complete domanance.

Next, a 1986 FA Cup final player tracksuit top. That was of course the historic day when we clinched the League and FA Cup double with a 3-1 win against the Toffeemen at a sun-drenched Wembley. My personal

Lee in a mid-Noughties LFC kit



favourite cup final from one of my favourite seasons.

And thirdly a 1984 European Cup final tracksuit top. The Eternal City, Roma's own backyard, Brucie's 'Spaghetti Legs, European Cup no4 and a treble. Say no more.

And what about the strangest item in your collection?

It's got to be the Ladies toilet sign from the back of the old Kop – rescued by my own fair hands before the bulldozers moved in back in 1994!

Anything you 'haven't got' that you'd dearly love to possess?

Firstly that 1928 opening of the new Spion Kop souvenir programme which I let slip on eBay. Secondly a Bob Paisley bottle of Bell's whisky with all the trophies he won on the label – a brilliant item.





WIN THESE BRILLIANT BOOKS!

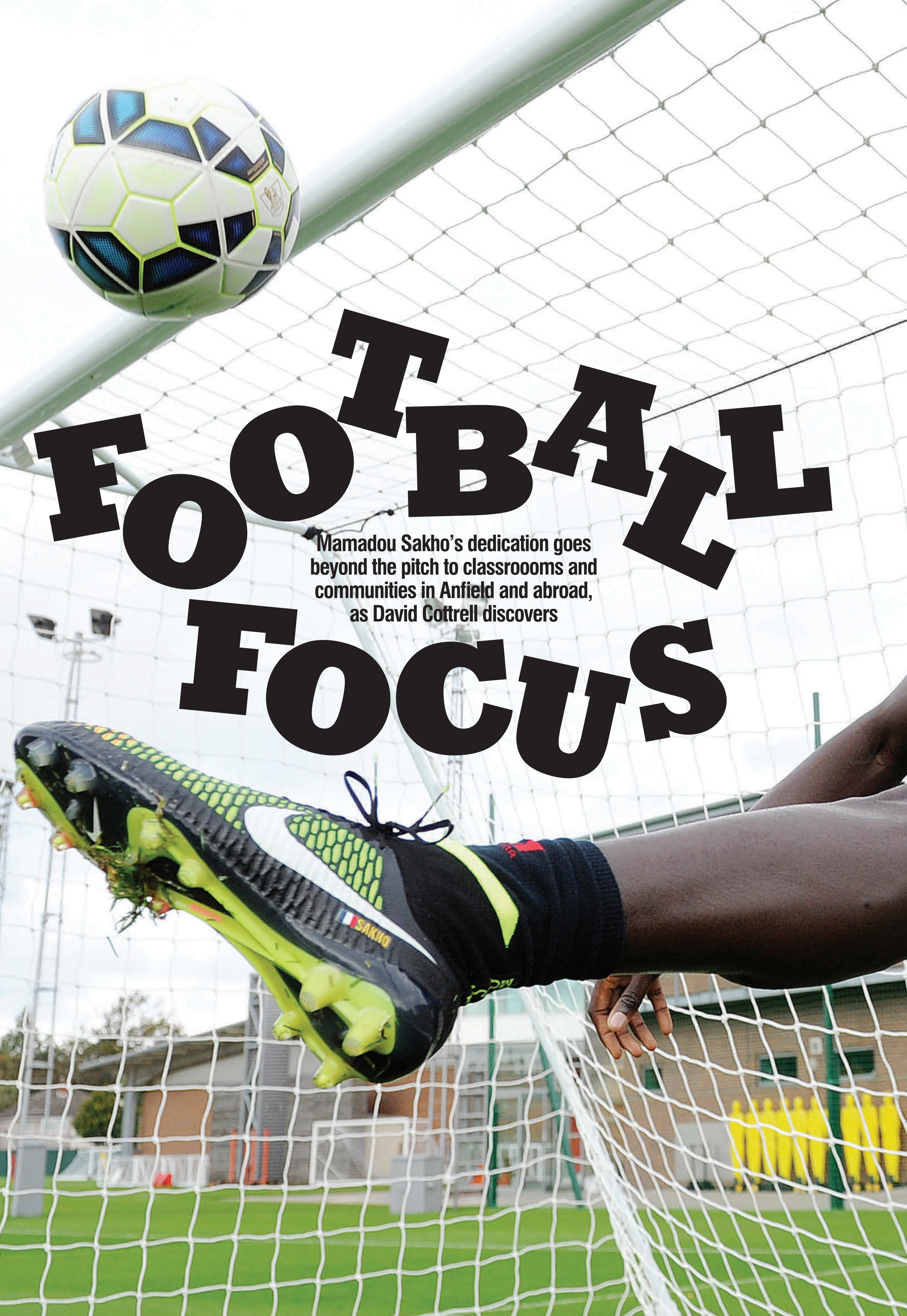
We've got three copies each of two fabulous football nostalgia books to give away, both courtesy of Pitch Publishing

Got, Not Got: The Lost World of Liverpool by Derek Hammond and Gary Silke, is a 144-page hardback compendium featuring the LFC memorabilia collected by Lee Gray. Published this year, it retails at £12.99 and is an essential title for any Red.

The Lost World of Football is a large-size hardback from the same authors, with 224 pages of memories and memorabilia whisking you back to the magical atmosphere of a more innocent era. It normally costs £19.99.

For a chance to win both books simply answer the following question:
Which Liverpool brewery once produced special beermats with drawings of local characters like Ann Field and Gwladys Street?

The closing date for entries is **Friday 12 December 2014**. Email your answer – including your name and address – to **LFCmag@programmemaster.com**. Please put **LOST WORLD BOOKS** in the subject bar. We'll announce the winners in a forthcoming issue of the magazine.



FOOTBALL FOCUS

Mamadou Sakho's dedication goes beyond the pitch to classroooms and communities in Anfield and abroad, as David Cottrell discovers


WARRIOR
17
L.F.C.
Garuda Indonesia

Liverpool's big, fearsome-looking central defender admits it hasn't been plain sailing. "When you are young and new to a country it takes time to settle. As a defender, you feel the responsibility – it is a position where you must lead by example. But it is not easy: new culture, new style of football, new language. You have to adapt quickly but it doesn't always happen straightaway."

Martin Skrtel's words, in an interview in the Liverpool FC matchday programme for the recent visit of Real Madrid in the Champions League. Who would've thought, in the immediate aftermath of Skrtel's debut for Liverpool – a turbulent FA Cup tie against non-league Havant & Waterlooville at Anfield in January 2008 – that at the age of 30 he'd be celebrating over 250 first-team appearances for the Reds, as the club's third-longest serving player?

Mamadou Sakho, 24, has been with Liverpool for 14 months. His own debut was a far more assured affair, the 2-2 midweek draw at Swansea City in September 2013. Following the high drama of last season's title chase he was on the bench for the first two games of 2014/15 then played in the 3-0 win at Tottenham, arguably Liverpool's most convincing performance of the early season. After the home loss to Aston Villa and nervy win over Ludogorets he didn't feature in the defeat at West Ham but returned for the marathon Capital One Cup tie with Middlesbrough. So to the Merseyside derby and an ingenuous incident pounced upon by parts of the press.

We are, as it happens, in the press-room at Melwood when he's asked to revisit that day and particularly his exit from Anfield when the Reds starting XI and subs bench for the early kick-off with Everton had been announced. "For me it was nothing to



"You won't progress if you listen too much to what other people say about you"

Enjoying training with Raheem Sterling

get concerned or worried about. I put the record straight on social media at the time. But just for everyone who's reading this, there were no bad intensions, it was nothing."

As a rule (as he will explain in this interview) Sakho pays little attention to the press. But in the immediate aftermath of the derby, given the binary nature of football's media with its pantomime goodies and baddies, he was swift to acknowledge via Twitter that he'd made a mistake. "It was one of those things," he continues now, "where I just thought: I'm not playing today but I really want to watch the game, and it might be easier if I watch it at home so I can concentrate on what happens, focus on the match. Some players are like that, and it doesn't cast any doubts upon their commitment in any way. They just prefer not to go to the game if they're out of the squad or recovering from injury."

Football is a game of opinions, sure. Perhaps more so, it's one of perceptions too. A fortnight before the Everton match, midway through the first half of the home fixture with Villa, there was a moment when an opposition counter-attack broke down and Sakho appeared to be on the receiving end of a Steven Gerrard rollicking – at least from the vantage point of this writer's seat halfway up the Kop. Sakho smiles. "He's not the type to shout a lot and on that occasion, just to put things in the correct context, he was shouting at the goalkeeper Simon Mignolet. I went over just to calm Steven down a little bit. He wasn't shouting at me. In the dressing-room afterwards the two of them talked it through and it was fine."

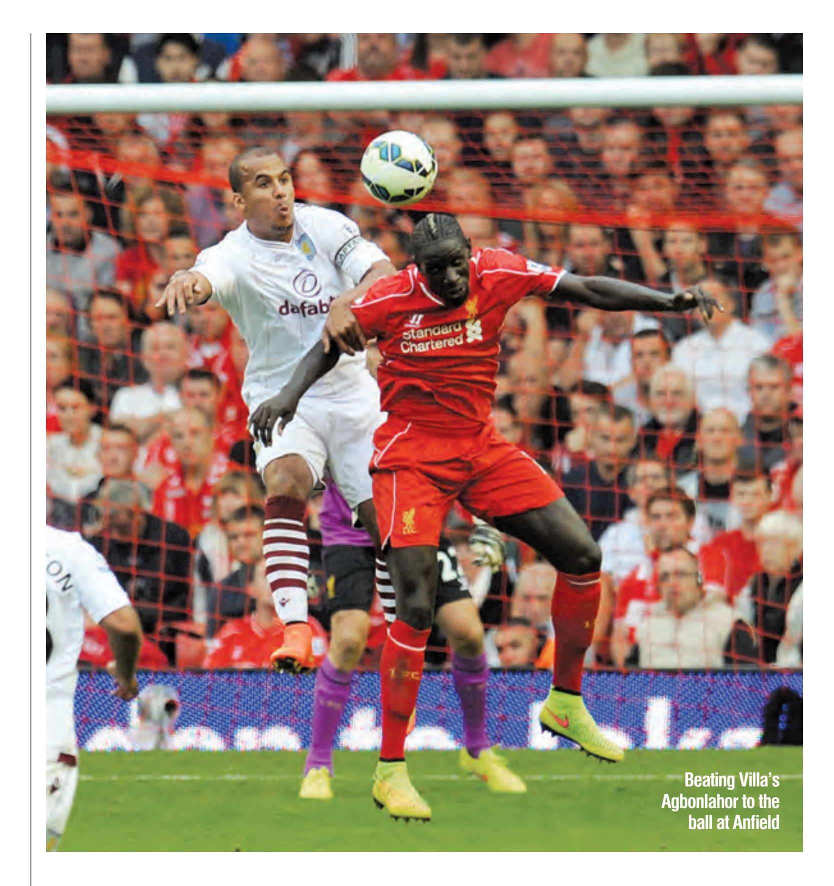
It should be said that, for all his affable, beard-stroking equanimity in this quiet corner of the training ground today, you wouldn't want to mess with Mamadou. He's dressed head to toe in blood-red for this interview,



a striking lambswool tracksuit that recalls another colossal Liverpool centre-half, Ron Yeats, being paraded here by Bill Shankly in full red kit for the first time, 50 years ago. Would Sakho mind posing for some photos in mid-kick for this feature – an idea we've had to try something different for the camera? Okay, he says, but wouldn't it look better in proper training gear instead? Fair point. He'll do the pictures tomorrow, no problem.

After the derby came an injury which stalled his season: he tore a muscle in his left thigh during training and had to sit out October. "With something like that, you need to rest it as much as possible. I tried to do a bit of work at home, a bit of swimming here, to gradually ease my way back. But it's been frustrating because I'm here to work, to play for Liverpool Football Club."

It's afforded him time, should he wish, to reflect upon the last 12 months. The last time Sakho was interviewed for the magazine – a year ago, in the company of fellow Frenchman Aly Cissokho – he talked about adjusting to the tempo of the English game and also the importance of communication as a defender. "It was difficult in the first few months, that side of things," he admits. "But I've learned. I'm still learning – it's a continual process. Certainly now I can speak to my team-mates without any problem when I'm out there on the park."


Beating Villa's Agbonlahor to the ball at Anfield

"It's cute to hear the local kids speaking French with their accents"


With pupils on a Foundation day at All Saints in Anfield

Admirably, throughout this interview and its rigmarole of each question and answer being translated back and forth by our translator, he speaks in English whenever he can.

How does he deal with the pressure of playing for Liverpool? Team-mate Jordan Henderson revealed to the magazine that, of everything he'd learned since joining the club, a refusal to dwell on things was the most important: "If you've had a bad result you can't change what's happened – you can only influence what happens in the future. As long as you learn from your mistakes, you'll be fine. You've got to move on, taking the negatives and the positives."

For Sakho it's about focus. "In life, if you spend your time listening to what some people say about you, you don't progress as a person. It's the same in football. I've always said the same thing, from when I was playing in France. After results – win, lose or draw – I don't read the press. It's an abstract thing from which you need to distance yourself as a group of players, as a club, because we have a common aim to win as many matches as possible and go as far as we can every season."

This might be a lesson for some of football's more impulsive fans: in this crazy business, while we're watching all that drama unfold from the stands or the sitting-room, then reading all about it online or in the papers, maybe we shouldn't go confusing it too much with real life: what players do and who they actually are.

Sakho, a Parisian of Senegalese origin, has a charity called AMSAK, short for Association Mamadou Sakho. Slogan: *Agir pour les autres*. Act for others. Previously he's told the magazine: "I believe in investing in young people. I have my own beliefs, but this crosses cultures, religions, colour and creed. I'm interested in helping human beings."



"What you get in your right hand you have to give back with your left one"

He's also an ambassador for Liverpool FC Foundation and regularly visits local school All Saints Primary in Anfield as part of a scheme called *On The Ball*, to assist community coaches with football sessions as well as help pupils with their French language studies. The Foundation's head of operations has said his "enthusiasm really shines through – his ongoing input will have a positive impact on the schoolchildren here." So much so that, since his visits began, the overall attendance of pupils has increased by 1.2% for the academic year 2013/14, and over half of the school's persistent absentees from the previous year have now made the required improvement to above 85% attendance. Well, who wouldn't want to hear Mamadou reading from classroom favourite *The Enormous Turnip*? While he's been teaching the children French, have they passed on any Scouse?

"You could say that, yes! It's good fun. I'm getting to know the kids and they're getting to know me, we're building a good rapport. It's cute to hear them speaking French with their accents and it's great to hear that the attendances have improved. There was one little girl, I think she might have had learning difficulties, who grabbed hold of my arm and said, 'I love you!'"

Furher afield, between the end of last season and the start of this one Mamadou visited Senegal to open a new football centre. He also invited a group of schoolchildren from the French capital – Under-11 players from his first club, Paris FC – to Liverpool. There's a video of their visit on the AMSAK website, along with this mission statement: 'What you get in your right hand, you have to give back with your left one'. Can he elaborate?



Helping to open a new football centre in Senegal last summer

"It's something I feel is natural, what you have to do. My own upbringing has taught me to be like that. I want to do more, not just here in Liverpool but also back in France and Senegal. Since you mention it, I've taken on someone to help run these projects, hopefully to increase the activity.

"Between the season finishing here then going off to prepare for the World Cup I had a week where I was supposed to have a bit of a break, a holiday. But I decided to go back to Paris and sort out the arrangements for the Under-11s coming here. It also involved me coming back to Liverpool to organise a few things. But I enjoyed it. I put myself in their position. When I was their age I loved having a dream day like that, so it's about returning it, passing it on if you like.

"The main objective is to share something with these kids. If they can grow as individuals by seeing someone in the public eye setting a good example – if you can help them in life in any way, whether it be within their schooling, or later on when they come to be working, or in the area of sport – it's very important. In French we have a word for this: *declic*, which means that trigger or turning-point, that moment of inspiration to push on, when everything falls into place."

Interview over, digital recorder switched off – a little prematurely. "Can I add that I hope God gives me the strength to grow these charities," says Sakho as he stands up to leave. "Also, I want to help find a way to prevent Ebola in Senegal."

He may only be a year-and-a-bit into his career with Liverpool, and things might not always have gone smoothly on the football pitch, but clearly in life Mamadou Sakho seems to be on the right track.



French international



"If you can help kids in any way, it can be a turning point in their life"



CHO



Thirty years ago Liverpool and Dinamo Bucharest clashed in an incident-packed European Cup semi-final, recalls Simon Hughes

P SOUEY.

"You. Souness. Bucharest," shouted one of the Dinamo players at Liverpool's captain, making a throat-cutting hand gesture at the conclusion of the European Cup semi-final first leg, three decades ago.

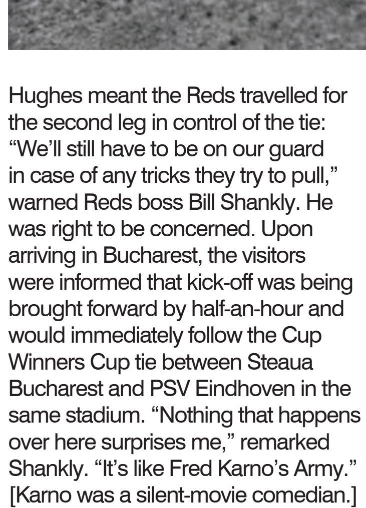
'The Romanians came to Anfield on 11 April 1984 with malevolence on their minds', noted Kenny Dalglish in his autobiography. A header from pint-sized midfielder Sammy Lee, of all people, had given the Reds a first-leg lead. Yet this match seemed more than just about the result.

Dalglish and strike-partner Ian Rush were recipients of waist-high tackles before Dinamo captain Lica Movila decided to go for Graeme Souness. "No, no – one more and you're getting that," warned the tough Scot, presenting Movila with his hand. Yet Movila carried on. With the ball drifting out for a throw in on the other side of the pitch and eyes diverted, Souness carried out his promise, connecting with Movila's jaw. Nobody saw it.

Dinamo boss Nicolai Dumitru was now in his fifth spell in charge of the club. When Liverpool had defeated the Romanian champions back in 1970, in the second round of the old European Fairs Cup, he was coming towards the end of his second stint. On that occasion visiting captain Cornel Dinu, who was then reported as Bucharest's answer to Tommy Smith, claimed his side must 'annihilate' winger Peter Thompson in order to win.

Second-half strikes from Alec Lindsay, Chris Lawler and Emlyn Hughes meant the Reds travelled for the second leg in control of the tie: "We'll still have to be on our guard in case of any tricks they try to pull," warned Reds boss Bill Shankly. He was right to be concerned. Upon arriving in Bucharest, the visitors were informed that kick-off was being brought forward by half-an-hour and would immediately follow the Cup Winners Cup tie between Steaua Bucharest and PSV Eindhoven in the same stadium. "Nothing that happens over here surprises me," remarked Shankly. "It's like Fred Karno's Army." [Karno was a silent-movie comedian.]

"Joe Fagan didn't need to tell us to keep calm – war had been declared"



That November evening in 1970, on the boggiest of pitches Phil Boersma scored in a 1- draw and Liverpool progressed. Ultimately they would exit the competition at the semi-final stage, losing to fierce rivals Leeds United. "It was a satisfying result [beating Bucharest]," Shankly later said. "Especially given the circumstances."

No wonder successive Liverpool managers were on guard when travelling behind the old Iron Curtain, although 14 years later Dumitru's comments ahead of the Anfield first leg were rather less forbidding: "In order to gain a good result it is not a bad thing to defend rather than attempt to attack too much. We will stretch ourselves to the limit to make sure when we return to Bucharest, we are still in with a chance of reaching the final."

Only two European teams had ever previously won at Anfield and both had come from remote outposts of the Continent. Ferencvaros of Hungary had performed the feat for the first time



The Dinamo team line up before the first leg at Anfield



Enter the gladiators

"Bobby Robson said that he hadn't seen a better away display"

in 1968, and six years later Red Star Belgrade of Yugoslavia followed suit. A third eastern European side in Dinamo Tbilisi lost narrowly on Merseyside but eliminated the Reds over two legs in the first round of the European Cup in 1979. More recently Bulgaria's CSKA Sofia (in 1982) and Poland's Widzew Lodz (1983) had done the same.

Dinamo's tactics on the night caused consternation. 'Their players went down as though permanently crippled every time they were tackled, often rolling about in apparent agony for minutes at a time', reported the *Liverpool Echo*. 'Movila and [Costel] Orac could have won Oscars for the quality of their acting. Dinamo were equally adept at body-checking, tripping and obstructing their opponents whenever they approached the penalty area'.

Movila would miss the second leg – his jaw broken in two places, while fellow tough guy Ioan Andone was also unable to play through suspension. Back to Kenny's autobiography: 'In his brief team-talk, Joe [Fagan] didn't need to encourage us to keep calm', said Dalglish. 'I was well aware that open warfare had been declared by Dinamo and the 60,000 crammed into the 23 August Stadium screamed for Movila to be avenged'.

Mark Lawrenson, in the centre of Liverpool's defence that night, remembers it as one of his favourite matches: "In terms of pure football, that game would be the best. In Romania, 90 per cent of the crowd were soldiers bussed in. They saw Graeme and they were like [cut-throat sign]: 'You've had it'.

"They tried to break Graeme's leg but didn't succeed. They just ripped his sock, but they went to do him. And we beat them. We scored first, so we were 2-0 up and an away goal up on aggregate. Then they scored from a free-kick, but Rushie got a great goal. Bobby Robson came in afterwards and said: 'I don't think I've seen a better performance from an away team in Europe in my life'."

Fagan told the press afterwards: "Dinamo met us on a day when every player was on song. Like every time we've played them, they made it difficult for us with their tricks. But our lads kept their heads, and they did not."

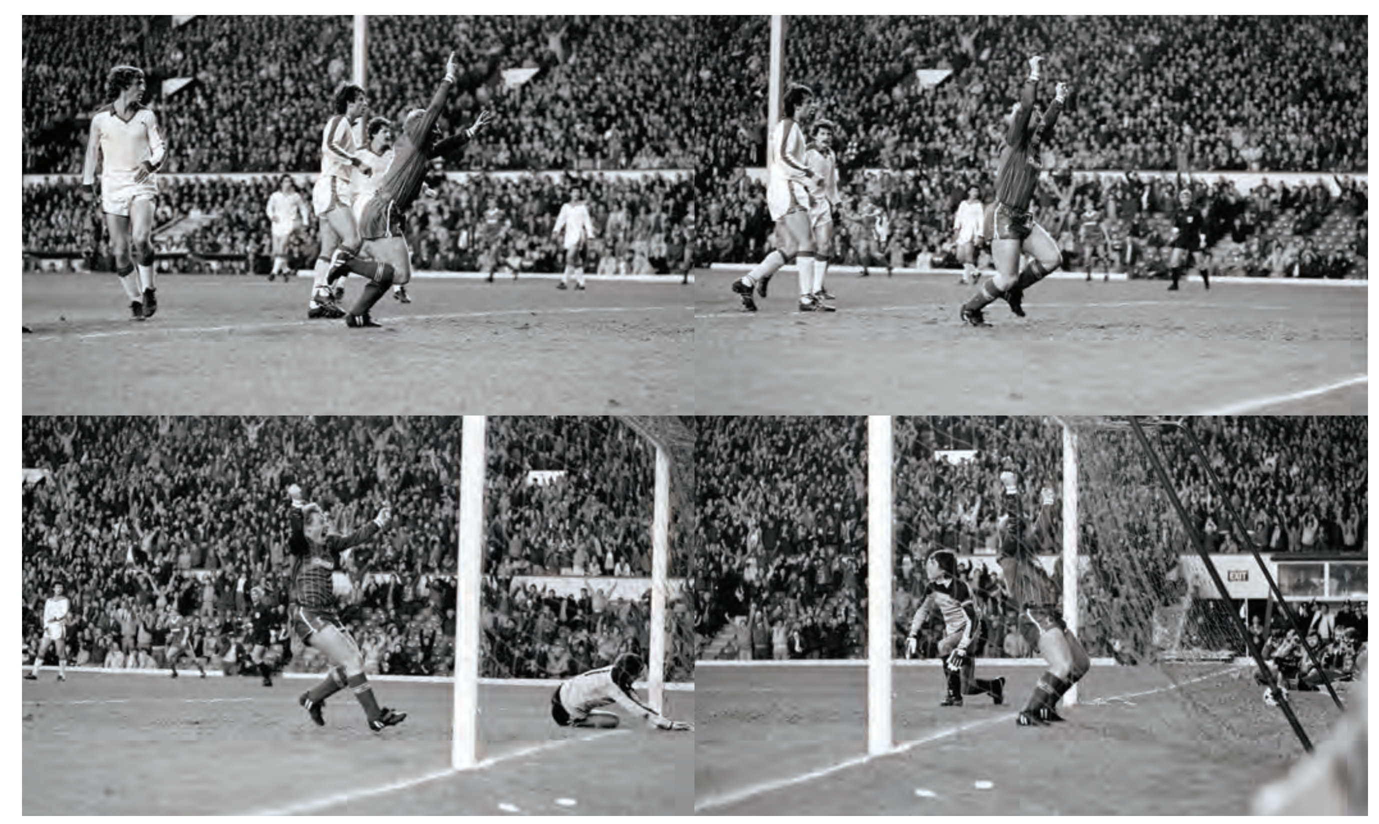
So what was the deal with Dinamo? Domestically, despite the help of Romania's secret police, they would spend much of the 1980s fighting a losing battle in their attempt to end the domination of city rivals Steaua, who were backed by the army. "They [Dinamo] knew everything," said Steaua's former head of football development, Colonel Nicolae Gavrila, who claimed his club's offices were bugged. "One day the head of the Securitate [secret police] told the army minister everything he'd said in a private conversation with our assistant



coach Anghel Iordanescu, just to prove their power."

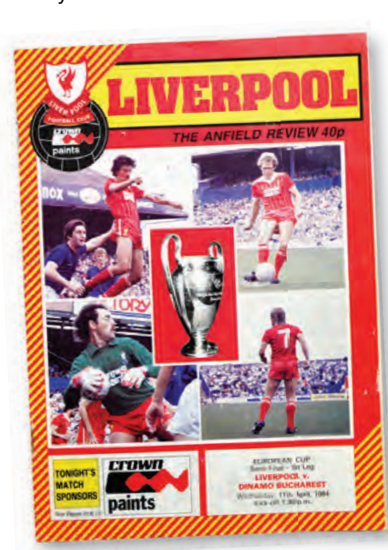
Steaua's domination began in 1983 when Valentin Ceausescu, the son of the communist dictator Nicolae, was appointed as club president. The club went on to win five successive Romanian titles while mounting an improbable run of 104 straight matches unbeaten. Dinamo's scant consolation was a couple of European golden boot (top goalscorer) winners in 1987 (Rodoin Camataru) and 1989 (Dorin Mateut).

Romanian football is difficult to analyse, partly because the history of each leading club is clouded by politics: the old communist state was felt to manipulate sport to its own ends, with clubs founded in association with various government departments. Dinamo, for instance, were established in 1948 initially under the umbrella of the Internal Affairs Ministry, winning nine league championships over the



next three decades. By the Eighties they were hardly innocent victims. In *Behind the Curtain*, author Jonathan Wilson writes: 'Before derbies, it became common practice for the Securitate to try to unsettle the Steaua captain Tudorel Stoica by having the local police arrest his father, a notorious drunk, in his hometown'.

The off-field actions of both clubs should not disguise the fact that both Dinamo and Steaua were exceptional sides and relatively successful in Europe. After Dinamo reached the semi-finals of the European Cup in 1984, Steaua won it two years later, beating Barcelona in a penalty shoot-out. Ceausescu's restrictions on travel meant that only 1,000 Romanians travelled to Seville for the final – 200 Steaua officials and 800 Communist Party members. 'All of them were first vetted by the Securiate, but 40 nonetheless defected', notes Wilson.



"Power no longer seems to rest with the capital's teams"

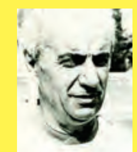
In 1989, the fact that Dinamo were able to beat Steaua twice in a season for the first time in the decade, suggested that the generals were not just losing their grip on the country but football as well. Later that year Ceaucescu's government was overthrown, and within months Dinamo reached the semis of the Cup Winners Cup, losing to Anderlecht.

It is perhaps good for Romanian football that power is no longer concentrated in Bucharest. After Universitatea Craiova were crowned champions in 1981, no less than 25 of the following 26 titles went to clubs from the capital – then came success for regional clubs like CFR Cluj, Unirea Urziceni and Otelul Galati. Although Steaua have won successive titles in the most recent seasons, last year a new threat came from Astra Giurgiu (a club south of Bucharest) and Petrolul Ploiesti (to the north, and another name from Liverpool's European past).

Dinamo, who came fourth last season and did not qualify for Europe, are currently in fifth place in a league which Steaua lead.

Sammy Lee celebrates his winner at Anfield

DINAMO'S DYNAMOS



Nicolae Dumitru: having ended his playing career with Dinamo in 1959, his managerial career lasted three decades. He retired in 1993 and died in Bucharest in 2005, aged 76.



Ioan Andone: centre-half in 1984, he was most recently coaching Ettifaq FC in Saudi Arabia having managed 17 different clubs. Played 55 times for Romania, ending at the 1990 World Cup.



Cornel Dinu: the sweeper who threatened to 'annihilate' Peter Thompson in 1970 spent his whole career with Dinamo, also winning 75 caps and managing the national team.



Mircea Lucescu: winger against Liverpool in 1970, he earned 70 international caps for Romania, has since managed in Italy (Pisa, Brescia, Reggiana and Inter) and Turkey (Galatasaray and Besiktas) and now coaches Shakhtar Donetsk – whom he led to UEFA Cup glory in 2009.

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GOODBYE TO ALL THAT

Our favourite American midfielder Amanda Da Costa signs off with her verdict on another dramatic Liverpool Ladies season

Wow! That was the overriding feeling when it all started to sink in that we had made a successful defence of our FA WSL title. It was a triumph accomplished against the odds and an incredible achievement when you take into account the hurdles we've had to leap throughout a breathless campaign.

To recap, we went into the final afternoon's fixtures in third spot and very much third favourites. A draw or a win for leaders Chelsea at Manchester City would have seen them crowned champions. Even if they failed, a win for [second-placed] Birmingham against Notts County and it would be they who took our crown.

For our own part we had to beat Bristol Academy and then hope.

We prepared as professionally as we always do and knew that we couldn't have a situation where the first two outcomes went our way but we failed to beat Bristol. That would have been too much!

We had made our debut in the UEFA Women's Champions League just a few days earlier and recorded an excellent 2-1 home win against the Swedish team Linkopings. That gave us a big boost going into the game, but although we played really well in the first half against Bristol we did everything but score.

The staff had wanted us to stay in the dark about what was going on in the other two matches but our vocal fans, who have given us incredible backing both home and away all





"Our amazing fans kept us posted about the other two games"



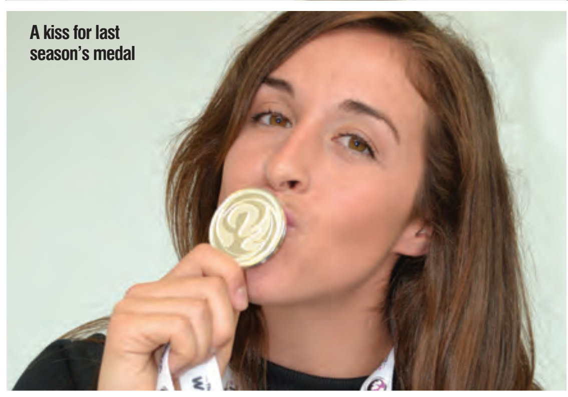
season, put us in the picture. Nine minutes into the second half we went ahead with a typically cool finish from Tash Dowie. When Lucy Bronze doubled our lead a few minutes later we knew we were well on the way to keeping our side of the bargain. Fara Williams scored from the penalty spot to make it 3-0 and we saw the game out well.

Then there was the crazy situation where we were all gathered on the pitch after the final whistle, not knowing whether we were champions!

It emerged that Chelsea and Birmingham City were both still playing and the wait was excruciating. After what seemed an eternity – but was actually only a minute or so – it was confirmed that we'd done it!

Chelsea had lost at Manchester City and Birmingham had been held to a draw by Notts County. Perhaps many people were surprised by those results, but they only served to underline just how competitive the FA WSL has been all season.

Amid all the screaming and jumping for joy, the television cameras caught me shedding a few tears. They were tears of joy at what we had achieved and also tears of sadness because I


A kiss for last season's medal

knew this would be my last season with Liverpool Ladies. After two incredible years in England it is time for me to return home and I have agreed a deal to play for Washington Spirit in the National Women's League.

It has been an unbelievable couple of seasons for me at Liverpool. To win the league in my opening year was fantastic, but to retain it in the manner we did was incredible.

Not only have I won the league in consecutive seasons but I have been surrounded by a group of girls who have become family to me over these couple of years. The decision to leave was an incredibly difficult one, and I know the future holds only good things for this great club.

We didn't have much time to celebrate the title success because we were heading straight over to Sweden for the second leg of our


Our gal at the city's Pier Head

MATT BEARD ON AMANDA

"Amanda was an important part of our rebuilding process at Liverpool Ladies and has been superb for two years. She was hugely influential in both title victories with her consistent performances, chipping in with a number of goals and assists. She is also a big character in the dressing-room and will be sorely missed by her team-mates. It will be a difficult job finding a replacement of her quality and character, but I wish Amanda the best of luck in her future career."



"Leaving LFC has been an incredibly difficult decision to make"

Champions League tie. On the night it proved a game too far for us. Linkopings ran out worthy winners, finishing on the right side of a 3-0 scoreline. We were all incredibly disappointed not to be able to prolong our season, but all things considered we can't have any complaints.

We had lost two key players in Nici Rolser and new signing Lucy Staniforth on the eve of the season to ACL injuries and then had to cope with the extra pressure of everyone wanting to beat the champions. The manager Matt Beard and his team kept us focused throughout. We are a tight group and we always had plenty of belief in ourselves and our own abilities.

Unfortunately I was back in America when the girls had the chance to parade the trophy around Anfield before the men's game against Hull City. However, seeing the footage and the pictures of that day made me feel incredibly proud of the team and what we have achieved.

For the club to reach the UEFA Women's Champions League in two successive seasons is a magnificent achievement for all involved. I know they will be even more successful in the future.

Liverpool Football Club is one of the world's great sporting institutions and I feel lucky and proud to have been a part of it and to have been able to play my part in Liverpool Ladies' success story over the past couple of years.

I have also enjoyed being a regular columnist for this magazine. It has been a pleasure to share my experiences with you. Rest assured, I will continue to keep a close eye on Liverpool's results. In the words of the Ladies' adopted motto last season – together we are limitless!

FA WSL 2014 FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Liverpool	14	7	5	2	19	10	9	26
Chelsea	14	8	2	4	23	16	7	26
Birmingham	14	7	4	3	20	14	6	25
Arsenal	14	6	3	5	24	21	3	21
Man City	14	6	1	7	13	16	-3	19
Notts County	14	4	6	4	12	8	4	18
Bristol Acad	14	5	1	8	18	24	-6	16
Everton	14	0	4	10	10	30	-20	4



The USA's gain is LFC's loss!


Cool keepy-uppy at a Liverpool skate park


ARD VII



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Neil MELLOR

You've made your debut but you're not in the next team – what happens now?

In a young footballer's career one of the most uncertain periods is when he makes his first-team debut and returns to the reserves, or as it is known now, the Under-21s.

Jordan Rossiter and Jordan Williams both appeared and did very well in the third round of the Capital One Cup penalty shoot-out victory over Middlesbrough. Rossiter scored Liverpool's opening goal – something he will have dreamt of ever since signing for the club – while Williams displayed a lot of nerve in the shoot-out that followed and was very cool in converting his kick. Debuts don't come any better.

Although Rossiter was on the bench in the next round when Liverpool beat Swansea City at Anfield, neither have featured on the pitch in a first-team game since.

At that age, you are desperate for more. I remember making my debut in similar circumstances, when Liverpool drew with Ipswich Town in the same competition back in 2002 before knocking them out in a shoot-out.

Ipswich had taken the lead and I was brought down in real time, allowing El Hadji Diouf to score from the spot. It really frustrated me because I wanted to take the penalty, but Diouf grabbed the ball and as the senior player and in need of a goal following a difficult start to his Liverpool career after a big-money move, he had the final say.

I didn't play another first-team game for a month. I scored in a League Cup semi-final defeat at Sheffield United then was back with the reserves for most of that season. The most difficult thing in that period was balancing patience and ambition. You have to be humble and recognise that everyone can't make huge jumps by becoming first-team regulars immediately. Not everyone can be a Raheem Sterling.

"One of the big issues after you've made your debut can be distraction"



The two Jordans: Rossiter and Williams

You have to maintain hunger while also being humble. I have seen Rossiter play for the U19s as well in the UEFA Youth League and his attitude has been first class. It is easy to forget that he's just 17 years old yet he's considered as a leader of players that are older than him. At that age, this counts for a lot.

The biggest issue for young players after they've made their debuts, however, is distraction. Your body and personality is still developing and you are learning all the time about the realities of being a professional footballer. Yet suddenly financial rewards come your way and you're bombarded by people who want to be in your lives: financial advisors, agents – hangers-on. Focus is one of the hardest things to maintain.

Rossiter was only on the bench against Swansea but it is nevertheless a valuable learning experience. Part of being a footballer is learning how to impact the game as a substitute, after all. The manager needs to be able to trust you in any situation.

Football has changed a lot in the last decade since I started playing for Liverpool. Players before me like Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher have spoken about knocking on the manager's door when out of the team, even as teenagers. I did the same with Gerard Houllier. You cannot afford to be scared on the football pitch, so doing this shows a manager that you have personality and belief in your own ability.

Yet the culture of rotation today has made this more difficult for players, especially young ones. Players don't get dropped anymore – they're instead rested.

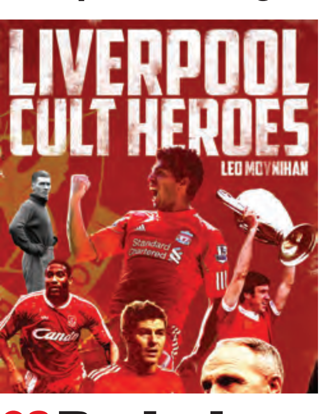
Thankfully Liverpool seem to have a manager in Brendan Rodgers who has worked extensively in youth development and appreciates when are the right times to call someone into his room. I'm sure he'll be doing that when he thinks Rossiter, Williams or anyone else vying for a first-team place needs a pep-talk.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33



The bit at the back for Liverpool FC's legions of fans at home and all over the world…









THE MONTH AHEAD

NOV

A key date in Bulgaria

The Reds make the trip to Sofia to take on PFC Ludogorets on Matchday 5 of the UEFA Champions League knowing three points could boost their hopes of progressing to the knock-out stages. Brendan Rodgers' men needed a late Steven Gerrard penalty to beat the Bulgarian champions when they visited Anfield back in September in a game that also marked Mario Balotelli's first Liverpool goal. With Ludogorets' ground too small to host

Liverpool have played four times at the Sofia stadium in the past

group stage fixtures, the match will be played 170 miles from Razgrad at the Vassil Levski Stadium in Sofia. It is a ground on which LFC have played four times in the past, winning three and losing once. The game also falls almost 50 years to the day that the club first wore an all-red kit – in a European Cup tie against Anderlecht.





BIRTHDAY REDS

Jim Furnell 77 on 23 Nov
Rob Jones 43 on 5 Nov
Ron Yeats 77 on 12 Nov
Ian Ross 67 on 26 Nov
Phil Babb 44 on 30 Nov
Jimmy Melia 77 on 1 Nov
Steve Heighway 67 on 25 Nov
Xabi Alonso 33 on 25 Nov
Brian Hall 68 on 22 Nov
Suso 21 on 19 Nov
Jordan Williams 19 on 6 Nov
Patrik Berger 41 on 10 Nov
John Barnes 51 on 7 Nov
Peter Thompson 72 on 27 Nov
Neil Mellor 32 on 4 Nov



Anniversaries

8 years since the Reds beat Besiktas 8-0 in the UCL on 6 Nov

47 years since Liverpool defeated TSV Munich 8-0 in a European Cup tie on 7 Nov

39 years since David Fairclough made his Reds debut in a game at Middlesbrough on 1 Nov

52 years since Willie Stevenson made his Reds debut on 3 Nov

53 years since Ian Callaghan scored his first LFC goal on 4 Nov

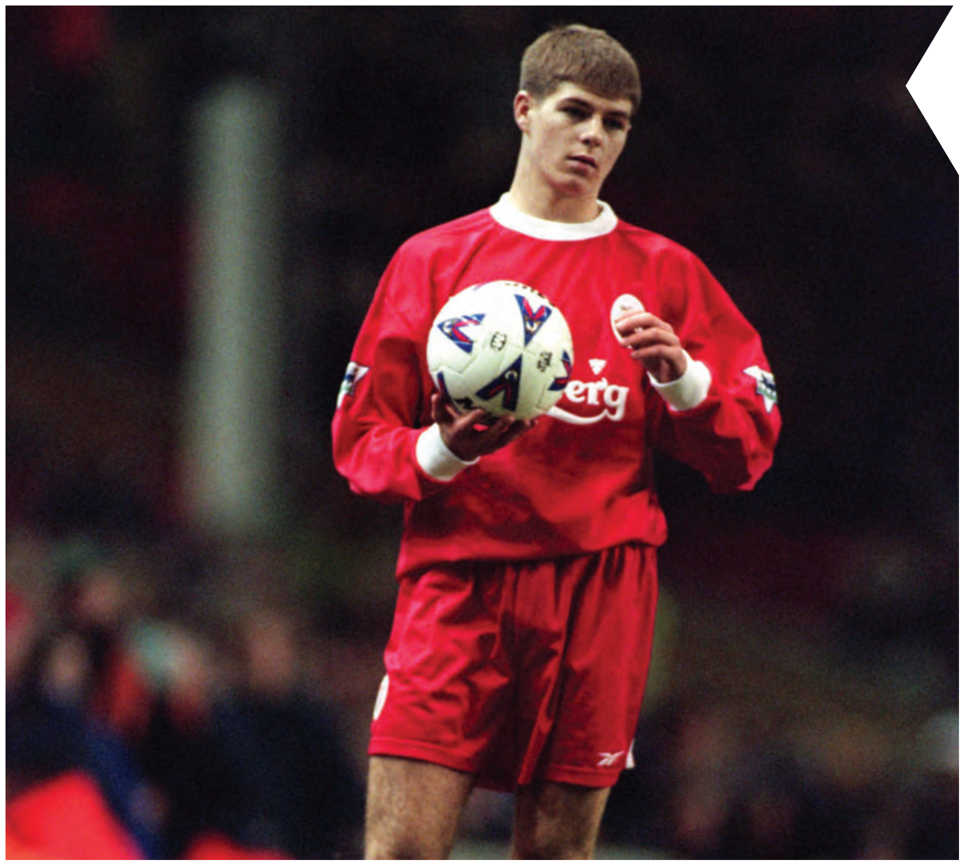
62 years since Ronnie Moran made his Liverpool debut on 22 Nov

coming up

The ghosts of season last



Chelsea at home and Crystal Palace away were two fixtures which proved to be the Reds undoing in last season's title race. November sees both games come around again with Liverpool looking to set the record straight. Jose Mourinho's team are the early season pacesetters in the Barclays Premier League and they visit Anfield on 8 November. Meanwhile Liverpool make the trip to Selhurst Park a fortnight later hoping to register a third success of the season in the capital following on from the triumphs at Tottenham Hotspur and Queens Park Rangers. Palace, who have made a bright start under Neil Warnock, could include ex-Red Martin Kelly in their line-up.



Stevie's Stoked by sweet sixteen

The visit of Stoke City on 29 November will mark 16 years since Steven Gerrard made his Liverpool debut. The captain's first outing came as an 18-year-old substitute for Vegard Heggem in the closing stages of the Reds' 2-0 home win over Blackburn Rovers in the Premier League. He has achieved plenty since and marked 11 years as captain of his boyhood favourites when he led the side to a 3-2 win over QPR at Loftus Road last month. Steven now sits third in the all-time list of Liverpool appearance-makers. After leading the team out against Hull City on 25 October his tally stood at 681, leaving him behind only Jamie Carragher (737) and Ian Callaghan (857) in the roll call. Eleven of those games have come against the Potters, with those fixtures producing two goals. The skipper is also sixth in the list of the club's all-time leading goalscorers. Following the game against Hull, his tally stood at 176, just seven shy of Robbie Fowler's haul of 183 for the Reds.

LADIES SET FOR WEMBLEY

Several members of the Liverpool Ladies title-winning squad are set to play at Wembley for the first time when England take on Germany in a friendly on Sunday 23 November. Tickets for the game are priced at £15 for adults and £1 for children. Liverpool and England striker Natasha Dowie said: "I haven't played at Wembley and I would love to get the chance. Hopefully I will be able to do it against Germany."






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DON'T MISS

LFCTV: bigger and better

November sees LFCTV's launch of a brand new HD channel, providing bigger and better content for fans 24 hours a day. First launched in 2007, LFCTV has now been upgraded and moved to a new subscription channel on Sky, available in both high and standard definition. The new-look channel launches on Tuesday 4 November with live feeds from Spain as the team take on Real Madrid.

As part of the improved service the channel will feature a new-look interactive studio, regular live news bulletins from Melwood every day, more behind-the-scenes access, exclusive interviews and features.



Matchdays will be like never before, with extended build-up and post-match analysis with Anfield legends, extensive coverage from every LFC European game, and full replays of every first-team game. Fans will also get exclusive live coverage of all U21s and U18s home fixtures as well as coverage of the Ladies season.

"Over the last seven years we have built a channel that gives fans a level of insight into the club's inner workings – we now have the opportunity to deliver improved behind-the-scenes access alongside bigger and better content in high definition every hour of the day, making LFCTV the first destination for all club-related news," says chief media officer Matthew Baxter.

To pre-order LFCTV on Sky, visit www.sky.com/lfctv. The first 2,000 orders before 11 November will receive a free LFC branded Sky+ HD remote.

SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

As a Season Ticket Holder there will be times when you cannot make it to a Barclays Premier League home match due to holidays or other commitments. If so, don't let your seat go empty and lose out on the opportunity to receive credit against the cost of your Season Ticket next summer.

Use the online Ticket Exchange service to release your ticket. You can use this service as many times as you want during the season. For more information regarding the Ticket Exchange please visit: www.liverpoolfc.com/tickets/ticket-exchange.



FIXTURE LIST 2014/2015

AUGUST

Date	Fixture	Result
17	**Southampton (H)**	**2-1**
25	**Manchester City** (A)	1-3
31	**Tottenham Hotspur** (A)	3-0

SEPTEMBER

Date	Fixture	Result
13	**Aston Villa (H)**	**0-1**
16	**PFC Ludogorets 1945 (H, UCL)**	**2-1**
20	**West Ham United** (A)	1-3
23	**Middlesbrough (H, COC 3)**	**2-2***
27	**Everton (H)**	**1-1**

OCTOBER

Date	Fixture	Result
1	**FC Basel 1893** (A, UCL)	0-1
4	**West Bromwich Albion (H)**	**2-1**
19	**Queens Park Rangers** (A)	3-2
22	**Real Madrid (H, UCL)**	**0-3**
25	**Hull City (H)**	**0-0**
28	**Swansea City (H, COC 4)**	**2-1**

NOVEMBER

Date	Fixture
1	**Newcastle United** (A, 12.45pm)
4	**Real Madrid** (A, 7.45pm UCL)
8	**Chelsea (H, 12.45pm)**
23	**Crystal Palace** (A, 1.30pm)
26	**PFC Ludogorets 1945** (A, 7.45pm UCL)
29	**Stoke City (H, 3pm)**

DECEMBER

Date	Fixture
2	**Leicester City** (A, 7.45pm)
6	**Sunderland (H, 3pm)**
9	**FC Basel 1893 (H, 7.45pm, UCL)**
14	**Manchester United** (A, 1.30pm)
16/17	**Capital One Cup** fifth round
21	**Arsenal (H, 4pm)**
26	**Burnley** (A, 3pm)
29	**Swansea City (H, 8pm)**

JANUARY

Date	Fixture
1	**Leicester City** (H)
3	**FA Cup** third round
10	**Sunderland** (A)
17	**Aston Villa** (A)
21	**Capital One Cup** semi-final first leg
24	**FA Cup** fourth round
28	**Capital One Cup** semi-final second leg
31	**West Ham United** (H)

FEBRUARY

Date	Fixture
7	**Everton** (A)
10	**Tottenham Hotspur** (H)
14	**FA Cup fifth round**
17/18	**Champions League** round of 16 (1)
21	**Southampton** (A)
24/25	**Champions League** round of 16 (2)
28	**Manchester City** (H)

MARCH

Date	Fixture
1	**Capital One Cup** final
3	**Burnley** (H)
7	**FA Cup** quarter-finals
14	**Swansea City** (A)
21	**Manchester United** (H)

APRIL

Date	Fixture
4	**Arsenal** (A)
11	**Newcastle United** (H)
4/15	**Champions League** quarter-finals (1)
18	**Hull City** (A) / **FA Cup** semi-finals
21/22	**Champions League** quarter-finals (2)
25	**West Bromwich Albion** (A)

MAY

Date	Fixture
2	**Queens Park Rangers** (H)
5/6	**Champions Lge** semi-finals (1)
9	**Chelsea** (A)
12/13	**Champions Lge** semi-finals (2)
16	**Crystal Palace** (H)
24	**Stoke City** (A)
30	**FA Cup** final

JUNE

Date	Fixture
6	**Champions League** final

* LFC won on penalties

All kick-off times are BST. All Barclays Premier League fixtures are subject to change for the requirements of television and/or for other reasons such as police requests.

 Please check **www.liverpoolfc.com** for the latest details as and when they happen.



Working with children and adults to help inspire positive change through sport – follow us on Twitter @LFCFoundation to keep up to date with the community team's projects and activities

Margaret, Jan and Robbie with Foundation representatives at Anfield Sports & Community Centre

LASTING LEGACY

Margaret, Robbie and Jan see how charity game proceeds are helping the local community

Margaret Aspinall, chair of the Hillsborough Family Support Group (HFSG), recently joined Reds legends Robbie Fowler and Jan Molby on a visit to one of Liverpool FC Foundation's community sports sessions that has benefited from the Celebration of the 96 match held earlier this year.

The group attended Anfield Sports & Community Centre alongside Foundation representatives to see first-hand where some of the proceeds raised will be used.

More than 45,000 people attended the charity match on Easter Monday to celebrate the lives of the 96 fans who died at Hillsborough. At the request of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, all the proceeds were divided equally between HFSG and Liverpool FC Foundation.

The sell-out event featured a match between local and international Liverpool legends at Anfield. Kenny Dalglish, manager of the local legends, and former midfielder Jan Molby personally thanked fans during half-time at the Capital One Cup fixture against Swansea City.

"Thank you – it was such a glorious day for the fans and our city"

Margaret Aspinall, chair of HFSG, said: "On behalf of the entire group I would like to thank everyone who supported, attended or watched the Celebration of the 96 event, particularly the former players who gave up their time so generously to make it happen. It was such a glorious day, bringing together people of all ages, and testament to our fantastic fans and great city that has supported us for the past 25 years and continues to do so."

FOUNDATION DIARY

Elsewhere it's been a busy few weeks once again for Liverpool FC Foundation, which continues to deliver a range of programmes within the local community and beyond to inspire positive change and build better futures for young people and adults.

Reds goalkeeper Brad Jones dropped by the Liverpool *Respect 4 All* centre to meet a group of visually-impaired youngsters enjoying their weekly football session. Based at St Margaret's CE School in Aigburth and Woodchurch High School in Wirral, the programme delivers free impairment-specific multi-sport classes to more than 150 children and adults – and Brad's skills were put to the test in a series of drills including a penalty shoot-out.

"It was a pleasure and I was so impressed with everyone's passion and skill set,' said the keeper.

Back in the city-centre, seven participants from the Foundation's Men's Health programme took to the stage at the Slaughterhouse pub to perform five-minute comedy sets in front of 100 people. The group had taken part in the *Take a Stand* comedy-confidence course run in partnership with Laughterhouse Comedy, with training from professional comedians Chris Cairns and Phil Chapman plus support from Christine Mounsey, the programme lead. The seven performers were Anthony Woolley, Dave Dowling, Eamonn Preston, Gavin McLaughlin, Michael Carter, Terry Ferrigan and Wayne Ennisall.



The Slaughterhouse comedy night was a huge success

Over in Wigan six boys from the Foundation's Friday evening *Kicks* session, held weekly at the Bronte Community Centre, took part in the Kicks Cup. Competing in the same group as Blackpool, Bolton and the tournament hosts Wigan, the Foundation finished top to face Manchester United in the semi-finals – a competitive game that produced a very high standard of football, with United scoring a last-minute winner in extra-time. Liverpool FC Foundation captain Edward Wilson was named as the player of the tournament.

"I was so impressed with their passion and skills"

Tony Cosgrove, social inclusion coach at Liverpool FC Foundation, called it "a great way of rewarding our participants for their continued attendance at our Kicks sessions – it enabled a group of our youngsters to travel out of their local community and test themselves against other participants from around the North West."

For further information on the Foundation please email lfcfoundation@liverpoolfc.com.



Brad Jones at the Respect 4 All centre

The Wonder Years

This veteran Liverpool supporter has truly seen it all over the last 75 years

Fred Parr first appeared on this magazine's radar a couple of weeks before the home game against West Brom. His daughter Fiona had been in touch with Karen Gill, the honorary president of the Liverpool FC Supporters' Committee, who duly contacted the magazine editorial team to see if he could have a mention in the matchday programme for the Albion fixture, it being the first game at Anfield after his 90th birthday. We were only too happy to oblige.

These days season-ticker holder Fred attends matches with his twin nieces. He's been going to the game since he was 15. No wonder his family have decided to publish his memoirs. *Red: A Liverpool Life* by Fred Parr, is available to download on Kindle.

I was originally an Arsenal fan!

I hate to admit it now, but the main reason I admired them was their red shirts. It must have been the same colour that attracted me to Liverpool. My dad wasn't into football at all – he was an amateur boxer – and my older brother was an Evertonian. So there was nobody at home trying to persuade me to like Liverpool. I made up my own mind and was influenced by the colours. Once I started going to Anfield I was hooked.

In those first few years I used to get a tram up to the ground. There was also a bus that went from Old Swan, so I used to make my way there from Dovecot where I lived. It took a long time. When I started working as an apprentice toolmaker on Edge Lane I met lots of other lads who supported Liverpool. We'd walk up to the ground straight from the factory, kicking a football along as we went. Or if I wasn't going to the game in a group, I'd cycle. Quite a few houses around Anfield would let you leave the bike in their garden in those days.

"Shanks made us hard to beat – then came the the frills and thrills"

Matt Busby was one of my heroes

When I first started going to the game, in the late 1930s, he was coming towards the end of his playing days with Liverpool. Despite that you could still see he was a brilliant player. He dominated games in the middle of the pitch and the team was transformed when he was playing. If he was missing, you really noticed it.

I used to play table tennis with Liverpool defender Bill Jones

He was an important member of the team during the 1940s and 50s and lodged with a friend of mine in Arkles Lane near Anfield. There was a steel bomb shelter in the house, left over from the war. It was table-shaped and the idea was you jumped under it during an air raid. We noticed it was ideal for playing table tennis on, so that's what it became. Our goalkeeper Charlie Ashcroft lived there too, so I got to know him well.

The best goal that I've ever seen...

There are a few to choose from, but I'd have to go for a diving header by Albert Stubbins who was a great striker in the title-winning side of 1946/47 and one of my favourite players. I can't remember which team it was against but there was heavy snow on the pitch and a cross came in to the box, about three or four feet high. Very few players would've even thought about heading it. He adjusted his body brilliantly to throw himself forward. It was stunning – the ball just flew in to the net. When you remember the conditions – I'm certain there was ice on some parts of the pitch – it was even more remarkable.

Relegation in 1954 was a big shock

We'd been champions in 1947 and reached the FA Cup final in 1950, so dropping out of the old First Division





"Houses around Anfield let you leave your bicycle in their garden"



From left: Cruyff at Anfield in 1976; Shanks points the way ahead; the great Albert Stubbins

was something none of us considered until it happened. Looking back, it was probably inevitable. Our good players left and weren't replaced with sufficient quality. When that happens you are only going one way. It was a painful experience – the team just got worse each year and started slipping down the table. For a while we thought we'd never get back up to the First Division. Then a Scottish manager whom none of us knew too much about came along and changed everything.

Bill Shankly wasn't interested in playing attractive football

That might sound strange when you consider he used wingers and the team were exciting but that only came after he'd made the side solid. Winning with style wasn't his priority – he just wanted to win. It was only when the hard-to-beat foundation was in place that he added the frills and thrills.

I think that Barcelona are the finest side to visit Anfield

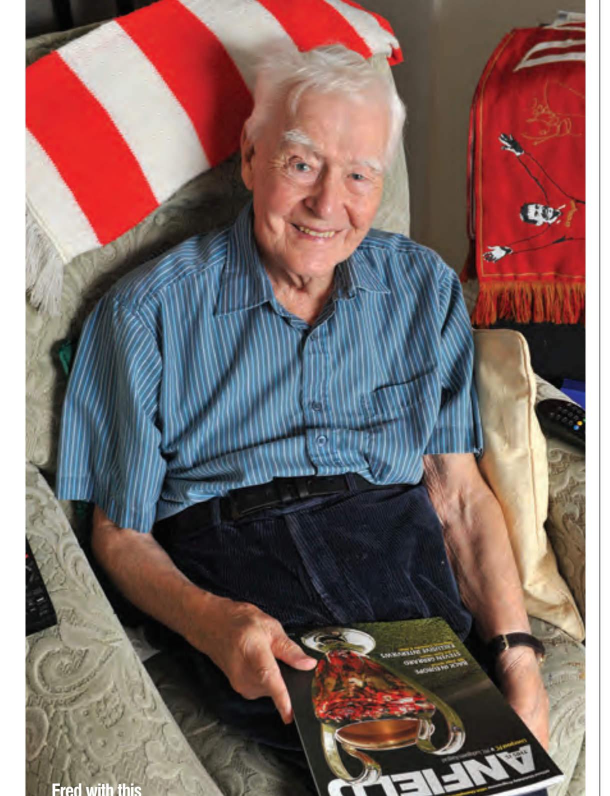
We played them in the 1976 UEFA Cup semi-final and I don't think I've seen a better team. The Dutch players, Johan Cruyff and Johan Neeskens, were the stars but they had a really talented group. We'd already beaten them 1-0 in the Nou Camp so a 1-1 draw at home was enough to get through. I don't think Liverpool got the credit they deserved for that victory. Inter Milan were a great team in 1965 too, but I can never give them too much praise after the dubious way they beat us in the semi-final.

I went to Anfield for the football and Everton for a laugh!

That's what I used to tell my mate who was a big Blue. We'd watch whichever team was at home that weekend. Although I was a Liverpool fan I could appreciate when Everton had a decent side with players like Ted Sager and TG Jones in the 1940s. There was a rivalry, but it was always in jest.

Robbie Fowler's tackling was brilliant

I was involved in schoolboy football in Liverpool through my job as a teacher. I remember a game at Penny Lane when a lad who was much smaller than everyone else somehow kept getting possession. He could tackle anyone, no matter how big. And he could score goals – lot of goals. It was superb to see Robbie Fowler go from there to become a star in the first team.



Fred with this season's Champions League programme

"Red or Blue, we'd go to watch whoever was at home that weekend"

Best wishes to Betty!

Ian Rush made it a very special day for another Liverpool superfan, Betty Musker, when he paid her a surprise visit on the eve of her 104th birthday. Rushie visited Betty's care home in Warrington to deliver a card and personalised Reds shirt, and it was later shown on BBC 1's *The One Show*. Originally from Sheil Road in the city, Betty is the club's oldest Official Member and still watches all of Liverpool's matches on TV. She has a daughter, three granddaughters, six great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren.



Interview by John Hynes

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On the Road with the Redmen *Jegsy Dodd*

Pie & Chips Publishing, £10

After the success of *Redmen: A Season on the Drink*, Jegsy returns with a new title focusing on Liverpool's away trips last season. "It's about the whole adventure of being on someone else's patch, in an unfamiliar town," he says. "It's about the passion, the solidarity and the complete utter silliness of the day-out."

Places I Remember

Dave Hewitson & Dave Hardman

Published independently, £10.00

In August 1964, Liverpool FC embarked on a European adventure that contineus to this day. This book covers 50 years of escapades through the eyes of the fans and Jamie Carragher has written its foreword. "Supporting Liverpool isn't just about the big matches," Carra writes. "I remember being in remote parts of Russia and Turkey and asking myself how people managed to make it."

Make Us Dream *Neil Atkinson & John Gibbons*

De Coubertin Books, £12.99

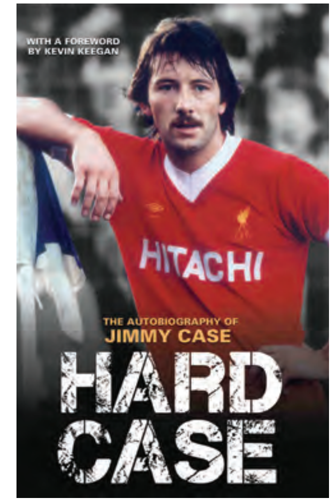
A personal account of the 2013/2014 season through the eyes of Neil Atkinson and John Gibbons, the producers of *The Anfield Wrap* podcast, with contributions from Mike Nevin, Martin Fitzgerald, Phil Blundell, Kate Forrester, Gareth Roberts and more. "It was the year millions of Liverpool supporters dared to dream again," says Neil.



And don't forget...

Just published by Carlton Books, The Official Liverpool FC Illustrated History charts the club's complete story – from formative years to the Shankly reign, the total dominance of the 1970s and 80s, the Premier League era and glory of Istanbul, and the brave, new and exciting world under Brendan Rodgers.

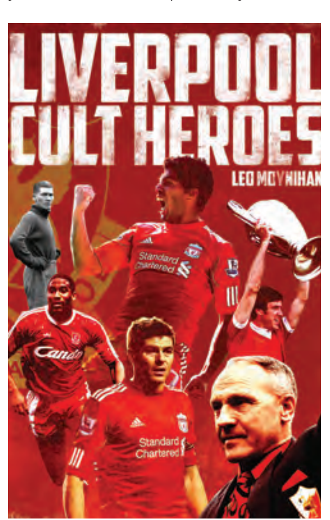
Packed with star players, super stats and wonderful memories from the history of this great club, it's the perfect book for any true LFC supporter. Featuring a foreword by Brendan himself, and co-written by Jeff Anderson and Stephen Done, curator of the Anfield Museum, it's available now for £25 from all good bookstores and www.carltonbooks.co.uk.



Hard Case *Jimmy Case*

John Blake Publishing, £18.99

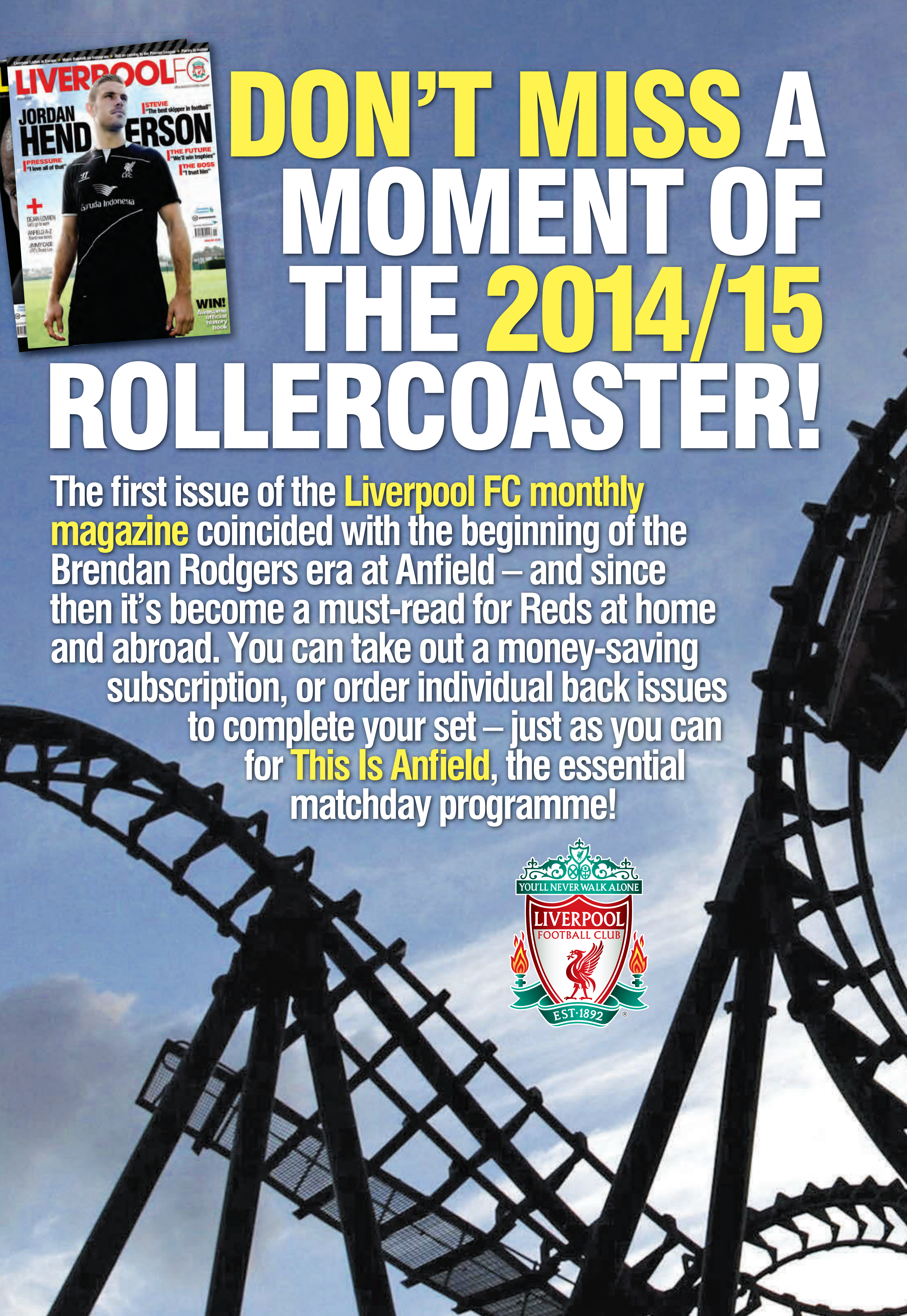
The ex-Reds midfielder, who emerged from Sunday league football to win the European Cup, has been working on his autobiography for a decade. Considering he played more than 700 games for seven clubs and only retired at 41, there was a lot to get through. "I wanted to stay at Liverpool my whole career," he says. "If you read the book it explains why I didn't."



Liverpool FC Cult Heroes *Leo Moynihan*

Pitch Publishing, £16.99

A hardcover title devoted to 20 players who have won a special place in the hearts of the Anfield faithful – not necessarily the greatest footballers but a brotherhood of mavericks and stalwarts, local lads and big signings. Find out which Reds icon was left at a service-station as a prank; who was involved in a punch-up with waiters after a Euro semi; and who was carried through Lime Street on the shoulders of fans.


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Lucy Bronze Instagram



12 October
Scored a goal... Won the league... Had a coke #GoodNight



12 October
CHAMPIONS #YNWA



9 October
100% team effort last night feeling the love 😀 #OnToTheNextOne #ChampionsLeague



3 August
Solid 4-0 win against Sweden!! #England Thanks for everyone that came to support us!! #12thMan



26 July
Leisurely bike around Liverpool... Thanks #CityBike 🚲



25 July
Park life with the team-mates



6 July
This is MY team... 'Smile for the camera girls' #HOLLLAAAA 😎



18 May
No mirrors in the changing rooms today... So we improvised with a camera!! #Selfie



5 May
My attempt at a Ronaldo jump.... Not quite there yet, only another 2 metres to go. #LeapFrog 🐸



29 April
Love this picture. Thanks for everything @MCBouchier #PFA #POTY



23 February
#YNWA



24 January
Annnnd we're off!!! #PreSeason #Liverpool #FootballFootballFootball

David PRICE

In the future we may never see the likes of Steven again

At the end of November it will be 16 years since Steven Gerrard made his Liverpool debut at Anfield. There have been some great players who have pulled on the red shirt down the years, but for me Steven is the best of them all.

One-club players are becoming a rare commodity in top-flight football and I'm not sure we'll ever see the likes of Steven again.

When he was interviewed before the Real Madrid game he admitted he could have gone to the Bernabeu at various points in his career. I'm sure he could have had his pick of any club in Europe and been a superstar.

If we're being totally honest, staying at Liverpool has been costly in some ways. There have been great days like lifting the Champions League, but there have been plenty of leaner times too when I'm sure he must have questioned his loyalty.

But to have a local lad, captaining the club, staying at LFC throughout his career and demonstrating the quality he has, is admirable. We've been lucky to witness it and hopefully he's got a few more years left yet.

The start to the season has been frustrating for players and fans alike. At the start of the campaign I think there was a little bit of a hangover from what happened last year. Despite the frustrations however, Liverpool headed into November just three points off the top four and I believe that finishing up there has to be the main aim this season. A title challenge is always great, but having managed to get back into the Champions League I think it is essential that we qualify for the tournament on a consistent basis again.

We have had too many seasons of transition and now need to build on finishing second last year. We have had rotten luck with injuries in the early weeks of this season and a number of the new players have found it tough to settle in.

"One-club players are becoming a rare commodity in football"



Stevie: the one and only

But I'm certain that most of those Brendan Rodgers has brought in will prove to be good signings in time. Having Daniel Sturridge back will also provide a massive lift. He's a top player and the team has certainly missed his goals while he's been sidelined.

The Premier League is extremely competitive and despite the fact we haven't had a great start we are still within touching distance of the top four which is important. November will bring some big fixtures, not least Chelsea at home and Crystal Palace away. They are the games where the league slipped from our grasp last season and psychologically those matches are a big test.

When I fought Tony Thompson for the second time last year, I prepared thoroughly and trained as hard as possible. But I had already lost the fight in my head before I went in the ring.

The difference between team sports and individual ones is that you have other people out there to help you through it, and the players will be wanting to go into those games determined to put the record straight.

On a personal note, I will be back in the ring on 6 December. The fight will take place abroad as the Tony Bellew v Nathan Cleverly bout is the main focus in town at the end of this month. These are exciting times for me and the plan is then to have a contest at the Echo Arena early next year and hopefully a big fight next summer against Tyson Fury, Anthony Joshua or Derek Chisora.

Follow David on Twitter @DavidPrice_1


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